

Jordan's water supply increased

AMMAN (J.T.) — The large quantities of rain which fell throughout the country this season have increased the country's storage of water for irrigation and drinking and also raise hopes for a good harvest this year, Jordanian officials said. The Water Authority of Jordan (W.A.J.) President Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani told the Jordan Television on Wednesday that the water level has increased in the wells and water basins and that water increased by four folds since September in the springs, which are a major source of drinking water. He added that the rain for this season will help the W.A.J. achieve its goals for this year. The rains also benefited the storage at artesian wells used for irrigation by farmers, he added. Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Haddadin also said that the rain which fell this season has raised the dam's storage of water by four folds.

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Crown Prince pays condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday paid his condolences in two separate visits to the families of the late Sa'ad Ahmad Jamous and the late Norair Butros Sarkis Karakashian who were killed during the aborted hijack attempt on an Iraqi airliner on Dec. 25. The two Jordanian victims were flown to Amman from Iraq on Monday, 10 days after the Iraqi Airways Boeing 737 crashed near the runway of Arar Airport in Saudi Arabia. 67 passengers including 2 hijackers were killed during the hijack attempt and subsequent crash. All the injured passengers and the remains of the victims were sent to Baghdad upon Iraq's request.

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Moscow in new call for Mideast conference

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Wednesday called again for a new international conference to discuss ways towards a peace settlement in the Middle East. Yuli Vorontsov, a first deputy foreign minister, told a news conference that any discussions of a peace settlement in the area must involve representatives from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel. Mr. Vorontsov also delivered a Foreign Ministry statement welcoming moves by the United Nations to set up a preparatory committee to consider calling a peace conference.

1 killed in Beirut 'camps war'

BEIRUT (R) — One person was killed and five were wounded in battles between Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen and Palestinian commandos around Beirut refugee camps, security sources said. The sound of mortar explosions echoed across the Lebanese capital and fighters exchanged artillery and rocket fire in the alleyways around the Palestinian camps of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila. At least 700 people have been killed in three months of battles for control of five Palestinian camps.

'Gulf states could not deter attack'

CAIRO (R) — The combined forces of Gulf Arab states could not deter an attack on the region but could only absorb a first strike, Oman's head of state, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, said in an interview published Wednesday. "Frankly, it will be an exaggeration if I say that the abilities of Gulf states are enough to deter impending or possible dangers. It would be enough at this stage to be able with our own resources to absorb the first strike," he told the editor of the Cairo weekly Al-Musawwar.

Brunei funds for contras 'misaid'

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. State Department has lost track of \$10 million solicited from the Sultan of Brunei for non-lethal aid to Nicaraguan rebels and has no idea how the money was spent, the New York Times reported Wednesday. The newspaper, quoting what it said was a secret Senate report, said some congressional investigators believe the money may have been used to underwrite arms sales to Iran or to buy weapons for the rebels, known as contras. Sultan Sir Mada Hassanul Bolki of Brunei was told the money would be used for humanitarian assistance, the Times said.

Mozambican rebels kill 8, kidnap others

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambican rebels killed eight people, kidnapped several others and wrecked an electricity generator and a hospital in an attack on the northern town of Monapo on Friday, Mozambique's official news agency AIM said.

INSIDE

- * Khartoum wants new basis for ties with Cairo, page 2
- * Education Ministry draws up programme to eradicate illiteracy, page 3
- * The left — from a non-political point of view, page 4
- * Worldwide famine could follow nuclear winter, page 5
- * Washington Bullets beat Clippers, page 6
- * Bonn rejects French pressure to appreciate mark, page 7
- * Misuari wants outsiders to monitor Filipino plebiscite, page 8

2 more SLA militiamen killed in clashes as rockets hit Israeli town

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Israel-allied militiamen were killed Wednesday and three others were wounded when unidentified commandos attacked two militia positions in South Lebanon, while several rockets hit Israeli settlements in the north, reports from Israel said.

The deaths brought to 13 the number of militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) killed in week-long attacks.

Israeli sources said an unspecified number of militiamen were taken captive in Wednesday's attack. The attacks took place at Jabal Safi north of the Israeli-designated security zone, a 10-to-16 kilometre-wide area controlled by the estimated 1,500 men of the South Lebanon Army, backed by about 1,000 Israeli soldiers.

The militia is also stationed around the area of the Christian town of Jezzine, 20 kilometres north of the security zone, where the latest attack occurred.

The Israeli sources said the two militia positions were defended by up to 20 militiamen. Dozens of attackers stormed the fortifications but failed to overrun them, the sources claimed, speaking on condition of

anonymity. On Tuesday, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin pledged Israeli support for the South Lebanon Army militia, describing it as an integral part of Israel's security strategy.

In another development, several Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets were fired from South Lebanon into northern Israel, the military command said.

In Cairo, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday its commandos fired rockets into northern Israel Tuesday night and some Israelis were wounded in the attack.

The Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, said: "Acting on instructions, the unit of Maryy Kamal Adwan fired heavy rockets on the northern Galilee."

"All the rockets hit their targets and fires were seen in the area while the enemy suffered a number of wounded."

A rocket fired from southern

Lebanon Tuesday night damaged a building in Israel but military censors did not allow reporters to give the location or nature of the building for security reasons.

The 122mm rockets caused only slight damage, said an Israeli military source who spoke on condition of anonymity. The Israeli army fired back at the presumed launching positions, he said.

It was the first Katyusha attack since Nov. 18 when several such rockets were fired into northern Israel.

The rocketing followed stepped-up commando attacks against Israeli forces and their allies in South Lebanon over the past week.

On Sunday Israeli helicopter gunships strafed positions of Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militias, killing at least three people. On Monday Israeli troops conducted a search operation after four Israeli-allied Lebanese militiamen were killed in a commando bombing.

Lebanese sources claimed a second Israeli air raid took place Monday on positions of Hizbollah, or Party of God, but Israel denied it.

Mr. Rabin warned Hizbollah that if it persisted in attacking the militia, Israel would increase its involvement in the security zone.

Chamoun escapes car bomb attack; 3 guards, 4 pedestrians die in blast

BEIRUT (R) — Former President Camille Chamoun, a hardline opponent of Syrian influence in Lebanon, escaped a car bomb attack in mainly Christian east Beirut Wednesday which killed seven people, police said.

Mr. Chamoun, 86, was slightly wounded in the hand by a 75-kilogramme bomb detonated by remote control as his four-vehicle motorcade passed through the Nahr district.

The blast missed Mr. Chamoun's armoured black Mercedes at the head of the convoy, but caught the second car, instantly killing three of his bodyguards.

Four passers-by were also killed and 40 people injured, police said, with a number apparently badly hurt.

Mr. Chamoun, finance and housing minister in Lebanon's "national unity" government, has now survived five attempts on his life during a long political career. He was president from 1952 to 1958.

French jets 'knock out' Libyan radar in Chad

PARIS (R) — French air force planes in Chad "knocked out" Libyan radar installations Wednesday at Ouadi Doum north of the 16th parallel dividing line, the Defence Ministry announced.

A terse communique reported the response following a Libyan bombing raid south of the "red line" last Sunday which Chad said had killed four people but which French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac Tuesday night compared to "an insect bite."

The communique said the French deterrent force "at midday on Jan. 7 neutralised radar installations at the Ouadi Doum military base in northern Chad occupied by Libyan forces."

Ouadi Doum was previously bombed by French aircraft last Feb. 15, before the recent new flare-up in Chad.

The French-backed army of President Hissene Habre is trying to drive Libyan forces from the north of the country with the aid of former Libyan-supported rebels.

A Soviet-built bomber, said by the French to be Libyan but which Tripoli claimed was piloted by

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the latest attack. "Criminals have tried for the fourth or fifth time to assassinate me and kill innocent people, but they have failed," the white-haired Chamoun told Falangist Voice of Lebanon radio.

"God and our lady protected me."

He spoke before his discharge from east Beirut's Hotel Dieu Hospital, where he was treated for the hand wound and visited by current President Amin Gemayel, also a Christian.

Mr. Chamoun said he had been planning to see Mr. Gemayel later in the day to express approval of a new year speech in which Mr. Gemayel appealed for national unity and said the only hope of ending 12 years of civil war lay in guaranteeing the rights of Lebanon's various religious communities.

Over the past few days emissaries from Mr. Gemayel have been discussing a possible reconciliation meeting with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad in

Damascus.

The two leaders have been at odds for a year since Mr. Gemayel rejected a Syrian-backed peace pact for Lebanon signed by the country's main Falangist and opposition militias.

The pact, bitterly opposed by Mr. Chamoun, would have redistributed political power at the expense of the Falangists and ensured a greater Syrian role in Lebanese affairs.

Wednesday's car bomb was the first in Lebanon this year. Some 185 people were killed in such attacks in 1986.

A mushroom cloud of white smoke rose a moment before the dull explosion shook buildings several kilometres away, a witness said. Black smoke then curled over rooftops as crowds gathered, gazing towards the scene of the blast.

Scores of Lebanese army soldiers and Falangist militiamen sealed off the area.

About a dozen cars were set

Iranian gunboat hits Japanese tanker in Gulf

TOKYO (Agencies) — A Japanese oil tanker was hit by an Iranian missile in the Gulf Tuesday in the first Iranian attack on a Japanese vessel in the six-year-old Gulf war, shipping sources said here Wednesday.

A missile fired by an Iranian gunboat hit the Japanese-owned Cosmo Jupiter about 12 miles off the Hamriyah oil terminal in the United Arab Emirates, they said.

No injuries were reported and the 238,770 tonne tanker, built last year, is now sailing out of the strategic waterway, they said.

The ship is owned by the Shinwa

Kaisha Company and is on charter for Cosmo Oil of Japan, the sources said. It left Kuwait on Sunday after loading oil there.

The sources said the attack was the first by Iran on a Japanese-registered vessel.

The attack prompted speculation that Iran may have decided to attack foreign ships calling at Kuwait, the sources said.

But they added the attack might well have been a mistake in view of good diplomatic relations between Japan and Iran.

China, Vietnam blame each other for border fighting

BANGKOK (R) — China and Vietnam said Wednesday fighting broke out this week along their tense border and Hanoi reported 500 Chinese troops died in the battle.

Officials in Peking said Chinese border guards made "forceful counter-attacks" against Vietnamese troops in the past few days but gave no casualty figures.

Vietnamese Radio, monitored here Tuesday, said Hanoi's troops decimated a Chinese army division which tried to seize four hills in Vietnam's northernmost Ha Tuyen province on Monday.

Hanoi said almost 500 Chinese

were killed and the attacks in Vi Xuyen district were quickly repulsed.

Diplomats said they could not confirm Hanoi's casualty figures and Chinese officials dismissed them as boasting.

The diplomats said both sides tended to exaggerate reports of border fighting.

There have been frequent clashes between them since China thrust briefly into six Vietnamese border provinces in 1979 to punish Hanoi for overrunning Kampuchea the previous year.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as the Regent prior to His Majesty King Hussein's departure to Baghdad Wednesday (Petra photo)

King Hussein arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Baghdad Wednesday evening for a visit to Iraq and talks with President Saddam Hussein.

He was met upon arrival by the Iraqi president and senior Iraqi officials.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra said that the visit was within the framework of consultation and coordination between the leaderships of Jordan and Iraq on

issues pertaining to current Arab affairs, the Iran-Iraq war and Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation.

Upon his departure, the King was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, cabinet members,

senior officials and high ranking army officers.

The King is accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasbi, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Jassem Ghafel Jassem Hussein.

Before the King's departure Prince Hassan was sworn in as the Regent.

Petrol bomb thrown at Israeli guard in Jenin

TEL AVIV (R) — A petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli guard in a bus parking place in Jenin on the occupied West Bank, security sources here said. It ignited but caused no damage or injuries. Security forces conducted searches in the area and detained several residents, the sources said.

Israel seeks international adoption of refugee camps

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin is calling on Western nations to provide funding for Palestinian refugee camps in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

"Instead of the Western nations giving advice on how to improve standards of living in the refugee camps, each nation should adopt a camp and support it financially," the spokesman quoted Mr. Rabin as saying during a recent tour of Gaza.

The spokesman told the Associated Press that Israel has not made a specific request to any nation "but the offer is open."

About half of the 1.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip live in 28 refugee camps which are financed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA). Many of the camps are without running water, sewage systems, electricity or roads.

During a visit this week to Gaza's Shati Camp, where some 20,000 refugees live, New York's Roman Catholic Archbishop Cardinal John O'Connor said,

"I've been to refugee camps in many parts of the world. This is as bad as I've ever seen."

Earlier the cardinal said Israel was not doing enough to resolve the refugee problem but "I think it would be naive and unfair to place responsibility just on Israel."

Palestinian refugee camps were set up in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria after an exodus of Palestinians after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Some of those camps were occupied by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War.

The UNRWA budget for Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied territories and the Arab countries was \$191 million in 1986.

Despite a 5 per cent increase in funding from 1985, this figure was still \$14 million short of the minimum budget requirements, according to figures provided by agency Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli last year.

With more than 2 million refugees throughout the Middle East, the budget allows for less than \$90 per person per year.

Congress grapples with Iran affair, budget dispute

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Congress is gearing for a double duel with President Reagan — investigations of the Iran arms scandal and battles over his trillion-dollar budget.

As the 100th Congress opened its second meeting Wednesday, the House of Representatives was set to approve an investigation of the Iran affair by a special committee.

The Senate gave its approval to a similar committee Tuesday. The two panels plan simultaneous hearings starting next month and due to last at least into the summer.

The congressional session opened with both houses under control of the opposition

Democrats for the first time since Mr. Reagan took office six years ago.

The Senate Budget Committee Wednesday began the first round of hearings into the president's budget for the financial year beginning next Oct. 1, with Democrats already charging the projected \$108 billion deficit is at least \$27 billion too low.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Lawton Chiles said the Reagan figure was "a big lie" based on exaggerated economic assumptions.

The Democrats have called on Mr. Reagan to sit down with them to discuss a budget that would lower the deficit and make possible a balanced budget.

King receives Murphy

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Murphy and reiterated to him Jordan's stand that the only possible forum towards a negotiated settlement for the Palestinian problem is through convening an international peace conference.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, said Jordan remained committed to convening an international peace conference on the Middle East as the only valid way to arrive at a durable settlement to the conflict. Such a conference should be attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five member states of the United Nations Security Council, Petra quoted the King as saying.

Petra gave no further details on Mr. Murphy's audience with the King which included a working luncheon. The talks were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

On the American side, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Boker and members of the delegation accompanying the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East and Near East Affairs attended.

Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Rifai and the U.S. envoy held a round of talks that lasted nearly three hours at the Prime Ministry. Contents of the talks were not known, but the meeting was attended by Mr. Qasbi and Mr. Boker.

A source close to the talks was quoted by the Associated Press as saying there was "a good atmosphere" at the two-hour meeting between the King and

partners in a shaky nine-party national unity government.

The two leaders swapped posts in October under a power-sharing pact signed after inconclusive 1984 elections.

Mr. Peres advocates returning most of the West Bank and all of the Gaza Strip in exchange for peace. Both areas were occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

An estimated 60,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank and Gaza, home to 1.3 million Palestinians.

(Continued on page 3)

GCC pledges to work for OIC summit success

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab countries pledged Wednesday to work for the success of an Islamic summit due to be held in Kuwait this month, but a senior Iranian envoy said Tehran expected the meeting to be called off.

Iran wants the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to postpone the Jan. 26 meeting and change its venue, saying Kuwait is not neutral in the Iran-Iraq war and its proximity to the battlefield makes it a dangerous place.

Both Iran and Iraq belong to the Jeddah-based organisation, which is to discuss fresh proposals to end the war, now in its seventh year. Iran says no peace is possible with the present Iraqi leadership.

In Kuwait, Hamd Hassan, an adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat now in Baghdad, told journalists: "We know Iran is preparing a new assault on Iraq on the 15th of this month."

Pakistan, proposed by Iran as an alternative venue, said Wednesday it would also attend the Kuwait summit.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Islamabad noted the venue could only be changed by a two-thirds majority and said Foreign Minister Shahbaz Qayyum Khan would visit Tehran on

Bur Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said Kuwait's Gulf allies would "begin contacts with Islamic countries to guarantee the success of the conference."

He was speaking on his return from Riyadh where foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), grouping Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), pledged their countries would attend the summit.

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(Continued on page 3)

Iraq 'to destroy' Iranian cities if Basra shelled again

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Wednesday that entire Iranian cities would be destroyed from the air if the Iranians continued to bombard Iraq's southern port of Basra.

He told a group of officers he decorated for their roles in stopping an Iranian ground offensive at the end of last year: "If they dare to hit Basra again, we will destroy their cities over their heads."

"He who hits the people of Basra with a mortar bomb should know that you (the officers) are ordered to destroy their cities over their heads with your missiles, air force etcetera."

He said Iraq had patiently endured the shelling of Basra for more than six months.

Dozens of civilians were reported killed in Basra last year in long-range shelling the Iranians say was in reprisal for Iraqi air attacks on some of their own

residential areas. Iraq insists it has not yet attacked residential areas of Iranian cities, saying its air attacks have so far been aimed only at military and economic targets.

"The political leadership has decided to lift its restraints from the Iraqi army and people from this moment and they are free to take their rights into their own hands," President Hussein said Wednesday.

He echoed remarks by Defence Minister General Adnan Kheirullah, who said on Dec. 30 that Iraqi warplanes would raid Iranian cities in force if Iran continued to shell residential areas in Iraq.

"We cannot see our people die and stay idle..." the general told a news conference. "If they continue attacking our cities, each and every city in Iran will be attacked with 100 planes simultaneously."

Khartoum wants new basis for ties with Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A Sudanese cabinet minister said after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday that Khartoum had a genuine desire to boost relations with Cairo, after two years of coolness.

But Industry Minister Mubarak Al Mahdi appeared to rule out a visit to Egypt by Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi until the Nile basin neighbours have signed a proposed "brotherhood charter," to replace a 1982 integration pact abrogated by Sudan in 1985.

Calling his two hours of talks with Mr. Mubarak "frank," the minister told reporters he had conveyed the Khartoum government's "strong desire to deepen relations on a sound basis and to lay down a framework and a working formula for Egyptian-Sudanese ties."

The minister, the first of Prime Minister Mahdi's Umma Party to pay an official visit to Egypt since the present coalition government took office in Khartoum last May, said he had also delivered a message from Mr. Mahdi to Mr. Mubarak.

"The message deals with the course of relations and the planning for their future and how to put them in a correct context which overcomes problems of the past," he said.

Historic ties between the two countries have been strained since

Egyptian ally Jaafar Numeiri was ousted from the presidency of Sudan in a 1985 coup.

Mr. Mubarak granted Mr. Numeiri asylum and rejected repeated appeals from Khartoum for his extradition to stand trial on corruption and other charges.

Khartoum responded by abrogating the 1982 pact, once envisaged as a prelude to union, saying it had been concluded in the absence of democracy and popular participation in Sudan.

Ties were also strained by an improvement in links between Sudan and Libya — at sharp political odds with Egypt since the 1970s — and calls by some Sudanese politicians for the renegotiation of a key 1959 agreement governing the use of Nile waters by Egypt and Sudan.

"The objective now is that we should work together to study the previous experience and lay down a new framework to be presented to the two governments to ratify and replace what has been frozen," the Sudanese minister said. He arrived Monday on a four-day visit.

U.S. soldiers take up observation job in Taba

TABA, Israeli-held Sinai (Agencies) — U.S. troops on Wednesday entered the disputed border resort of Taba to staff a new observation post in accordance with an Israeli-Egyptian agreement.

The new post on the shores of the Red Sea was inaugurated by representatives of Israel, Egypt and the Multi-national Force and Observers (MFO), a 10-country organisation which monitors the 1979 Israel-Egypt treaty in the Sinai Desert.

The presence of the peacekeepers at the calm beach resort is largely symbolic, showing that neither Egypt nor Israel accepts the other's claims to sovereignty. International arbitrators have begun hearings in Geneva to resolve the dispute.

The post, surrounded by barbed wire, consists of an observation tower and a building, both painted white. It will be permanently manned by 10 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division.

An Israeli government official said Israeli policemen will remain in the Taba area alongside the MFO. "Israel remains responsible for security in the area; the police were there before and will remain there," he said.

Initially the official said police would be pulled out of Taba, but he later reversed himself saying he had made a mistake.

The 10 U.S. soldiers will observe from a watchtower and report any violations by the armed forces of either side during

arbitration proceedings of a five-member panel that began last month in Geneva and are expected to last two years.

Taba is a 700-metre largely barren strip with a luxury hotel and beach on the Red Sea. Israel retained Taba when it returned the adjacent Sinai peninsula to Egypt in 1982 under their 1979 treaty.

Generals from both countries and the commander of the MFO, General Egil Ingbrigtsen of Norway, cut a ribbon at a brief ceremony opening the post at the foot of the rugged Sinai mountains.

An MFO spokesman told reporters: "The mission will be to observe and report any personnel or equipment that moves through the Taba area that does not go through the Egyptian or Israeli checkpoint."

The American observers arrived by helicopter. Sen. Ingbrigtsen arrived in another helicopter with generals Farouk Labib of Egypt and Oren Shachor of Israel.

An agreement by Israel and Egypt last September to submit the Taba dispute to international arbitration led to an improvement in relations.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres met President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria at the first Israeli-Egyptian summit in five years. An Egyptian ambassador, withdrawn from Israel after it invaded Lebanon in 1982, returned to Tel Aviv.

Shultz offers better U.S. ties with Iran

HAMILTON, Bermuda (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said the United States and Iran had mutual interests and Washington was willing to work with Tehran to improve relations despite the Iran arms scandal.

Shultz, speaking to reporters on his way to Bermuda to talks with his British counterpart, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said Tehran had problems that caused it to look for friends.

"There is a kind of inherent aspect to its geographical position that causes them to look to other countries for some support," he said.

"It has a long border with the Soviet Union and they see the Afghan problem on their doorstep. These are things that perhaps we can work with them on," he added.

Mr. Shultz repeated U.S. opposition to what he alleged was Iran's involvement in terrorism and hostage-taking, but he said it was "a critical piece of Geography" and Washington "recognises the Iranian revolution as a fact of life."

It was U.S. hopes of improving relations with Tehran and freeing five American hostages in Lebanon that led to secret arms sales to Iran, which Mr. Shultz has said he opposed.

The shipments sparked a scandal when it was discovered a White House aide, Lt.-Col. Oliver North, helped divert funds from the sales to the Nicaraguan contras after the U.S. Congress had ordered a halt to government backing for the rebels.

Iran's relations with Moscow have improved in the last few months, but hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees have sought shelter in Iran, fostering continued mistrust of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Shultz said the current visit to Kabul by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze meant high-level attention was being paid to finding a political solution to Afghanistan.

"It's certainly clear that the Soviets are not getting their own way in Afghanistan and may be they are coming to realise that," he said.

Kuwait sentences 2 to death for bombings

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwait security court on Wednesday sentenced two Arabs to death for their role in the bombings of two seaside cafes in Kuwait City in July 1985 in which 10 people were killed and more than 80 injured.

Only one of the two, Mustapha Mahmoud Sayed Bayari, 22, was in court. The other man, Akram Hassan Abdul Qader Adas, 21, was tried in his absence.

Last month, the court sentenced an Iraqi to death, and another to

life imprisonment in absentia, for a failed car bomb assassination attempt on the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber, in May 1985.

A total of five Arabs were tried in the cafe bombing case. All of them were said to be Jordanian passport holders.

Of the others, Ibrahim Saad Ibrahim, 22, was sentenced to life in jail, and Samih Mustapha Sayed Bayari, 24, to three years, both in their absence.

Group threatens to kill hostage Jews

BEIRUT (AP) — An underground group threatened in a statement published Wednesday to kill the remaining Jewish hostages it holds if Israel continues to retaliate against resistance fighters in South Lebanon.

The statement was delivered to the independent newspaper An Nahar in the name of the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth, which claimed last week it killed three of six remaining Jewish hostages in its captivity.

The statement paid tribute to a recent surge of guerrilla warfare in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon. It denounced Israeli reprisals as "barbaric terrorist action."

"Persistence in these terrorist acts will push us to execute the rest of the criminal Mossad spies we hold as a simple retaliation," the handwritten Arabic statement said. "Pardoned is he who has forewarned."

At least 21 pro-Israeli militiamen have been killed in the last five days in attacks inside the "security zone."

"We bow to the sacrifices of the strugglers of the Islamic Resistance," said the statement of the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth.

"They have committed themselves before God and their leader, the great Imam Khomeini, to continue fighting until the usurping entity, Israel, is removed from existence," the statement added.

The higher Council of Lebanon's shrunken Jewish community had appealed on Saturday for international intervention to ensure the safety and release of the three remaining Jewish captives.

The statement denied the group's charges that any of the allegedly killed or surviving hostages was a spy for the Mossad, Israel's secret service.

U.S. urges long jail term for Pollard

WASHINGTON (R) — Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard should be sentenced to a long prison term for selling U.S. military secrets to Israel and severely damaging U.S. national security, the Justice Department has said.

It said Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, was motivated by greed and had shown no signs of remorse.

When he was arrested in November 1985, Pollard had been funneling secrets to an Israeli spy ring for 18 months. He had already received about \$50,000 in cash, another \$30,000 had been deposited in a foreign bank account, and he would have received an additional \$540,000 for spying for 10 years, the Justice Department said in court documents.

Pollard, who pleaded guilty last June in a case that strained diplomatic relations and drew an apology from Israel, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

The Justice Department's recommendation that he be sent to prison for a long term was contained in a 55-page report to U.S. district court Judge Aubrey Robinson. Sentencing has been set for Feb. 10.

The report, signed by U.S. Attorney Joseph Digenova, said Pollard revealed he decided to become an undercover Israeli intelligence agent as early as 1982.

Digenova, the chief prosecutor in the case, said Pollard compromised more than 1,000 classified documents, most of which were detailed analytical studies containing technical calculations, graphs and satellite photographs.

"In short, the evidence establishes that, in exchange for substantial sums of money, paid as well as promised, defendant wrought damage to the national security which was exceptional in both its volume and scope," he said.

The U.S. government said Pollard participated in a spy ring that included Rafael Eitan, the shadowy Israeli spy master said to have directed the operation, as well as Joseph Yagur and Irit Erb, two Israeli diplomats.

The fourth Israeli official named as a co-conspirator was Col. Aviem Sella, an officer in the Israeli Air Force who is said to have directed the Israeli air attack on an Iraqi nuclear facility in 1981.

Pollard and his wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, were arrested on Nov. 21, 1985, outside the

Israeli embassy in Washington after an unsuccessful attempt to see a political asylum.

Just before his arrest, Pollard alerted the Israelis that the spy operation had been uncovered, Digenova said.

As a result of (his) decision to alert his co-conspirators that the espionage operation had been detected and to continue to protect their identity, Aviem Sella, Joseph Yagur and Irit Erb were able to flee from the United States," he said.

After his arrest, Pollard admitted turning over sensitive documents to Israel but refused to reveal the Israelis involved, Digenova said.

He said Pollard was assured by Eitan in a meeting in Tel Aviv in July 1985 that he would be protected by Israel if his espionage activities were uncovered.

Pollard later repeatedly expressed resentment at being abandoned by his Israeli co-conspirators, both when he was refused asylum at the embassy and later when Israel made no effort to free him after his arrest, Digenova said.

Federal agents testified that Pollard sold stacks of classified reports on the military strengths of the United States

Press institute denounces Israel

LONDON (AP) — The International Press Institute has condemned the Israeli government for expelling the editor of the Arabic-language Al Shaab newspaper in Jerusalem.

Akram Haniyeh, 33, was deported Dec. 28 following accusations that he was a top official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Haniyeh denied the accusations that he was a top official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Peter Galfiner, director of the International Press Institute, which had taken up Mr. Haniyeh's case with the Israeli government, called his deportation a "deplorable" act.

O'Connor says Mideast trip was a success despite early controversy

ROME (AP) — Cardinal John O'Connor has termed his Middle East tour a success despite controversy over scheduled meetings with Israeli officials in occupied Jerusalem, and said he had not received any criticism from Vatican officials.

At first, he cracked, he did not know whether he would be greeted in Israel with "huzzas or bullets" because he had cancelled the meetings. But later, a face-saving compromise was worked out.

Cardinal O'Connor, the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, noted the publicity surrounding the incident and said it was a positive development because it served to put the differences

between the Vatican and Israel out in the open.

"I have yet to hear from the Holy See the slightest evidence of displeasure," Cardinal O'Connor told a news conference on Tuesday.

He said he expected to meet with Pope John Paul II before leaving for New York on Saturday and would brief the Pope on his visit to Israel and Jordan.

The Cardinal admitted "I failed to do my homework" when he agreed to meet with Israeli officials in their Jerusalem offices. The Vatican asked Cardinal O'Connor to cancel the meetings because the Holy See, like most of the rest of the world, does not recognise the city as Israel's

capital. The cardinal complied.

But later, in a compromise, the prelate agreed to meet with Israeli President Chaim Herzog at his official residence.

He said that he had met Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, the Vatican foreign minister, at a mass earlier Tuesday at St. Peter's Basilica.

The cardinal said the Vatican gives de facto recognition to Israel but that three problems prevent full diplomatic relations.

He listed these as differences over Jerusalem, the Palestinian question and concern by the Holy See that such an action could lead to the "persecution" of Christian minorities in "some Arab countries."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		
Tel. 773111-19		
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:30	.....	Koran
15:35	.....	Programme review
15:55	.....	Children's programme
16:20	.....	Soccer: Brazil vs. Uruguay
18:00	.....	Local health programme
18:25	.....	Teaching French
18:40	.....	Contests programme
19:30	.....	News programme
19:50	.....	Programme review and varieties
20:00	.....	News in Arabic
20:10	.....	Arabic series
21:30	.....	Tomorrow's programmes
21:35	.....	Arabic Play
23:00	.....	News summary in Arabic
23:10	.....	Play continued
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:50	.....	Johnny Halliday vs Zeaith
19:00	.....	News in French
19:15	.....	La valée des pèupliers
19:30	.....	News in Hebrew
19:45	.....	World Sports
20:00	.....	News in Arabic
20:30	.....	Growing Plants
21:40	.....	Feature film: Spartacus
22:00	.....	News in English
22:20	.....	Future film continued
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM		
& partly on 9500 KHz. SW		
Tel. 774111-19		
07:00	.....	Light Music
07:30	.....	Newsweek
08:00	.....	Morning Show
10:00	.....	News Summary
10:05	.....	Morning Show
11:30	.....	Pop Session
11:40	.....	Hillville: The story of Motown
12:00	.....	News Summary
12:05	.....	News Music
13:00	.....	News Summary
13:05	.....	Pop Session
14:00	.....	News Bulletin
14:10	.....	Old Favorites
14:30	.....	Instruments
15:00	.....	Just a Minute
15:00	.....	Concert Hour
16:00	.....	News Summary
16:05	.....	Instruments
16:30	.....	Old Favorites
17:00	.....	The Musical in Review
17:30	.....	Pop Session
18:00	.....	News Summary
18:05	.....	Special Feature
18:30	.....	Music
19:00	.....	Newsweek
FOR FRIDAY		
JORDAN TELEVISION		
PROGRAMME ONE		
18:00	.....	Koran
18:30	.....	Programme review
10:35	.....	Cartoons and children programme
11:15	.....	Friday's Prayer
12:05	.....	Religious seminar
12:35	.....	Sport Magazine
14:00	.....	Give me a Break
14:30	.....	Arabic series
15:35	.....	Question in Odyssey
16:35	.....	European Song Contest
17:15	.....	Arabic series
18:15	.....	Viewer's choice (Arabic)
19:30	.....	News programme
20:00	.....	News in Arabic
20:30	.....	A programme on the occupied West Bank
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:00	.....	French film
19:00	.....	News in French
19:15	.....	French Varieties
19:30	.....	News in Hebrew
19:45	.....	History of Medicine
20:30	.....	News in Arabic
20:35	.....	Thelma (Czech)
21:00	.....	Weekly Preview
21:10	.....	Falcon Crest
22:00	.....	News in English
22:20	.....	Paradise Postponed (drama)
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM		
partly on 9500 KHz. SW		
07:00	.....	Light Music
BBC WORLD SERVICE		
639, 720, 1323 KHz		
06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Receptions 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:20 Features: Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Masterpiece Miniature 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:20 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Sing Gospel 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Country Style 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Body Talk 12:00 News Summary followed by Film and Fables 12:30 King Street Junior 13:00 World News 13:09 News about Britain 13:15 New Ideas 13:25 A Letter from England 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Road Report 14:15 Newswatch 14:35 Multitrack 2 - Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Partridge Macarty's Music Box		
VOICE OF AMERICA		
MW 1260 & SW 7300, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz		
05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 05:40 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 06:50 News 06:20 Newsline 06:50 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 07:40 News 07:50 Newsline 08:10 News 08:20 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 08:50 Newsline 09:10 News 09:20 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 09:40 News 09:50 Newsline 10:10 News 10:20 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 10:40 News 10:50 Newsline 11:10 News 11:20 Newsline 11:30 Focus 11:30 Special English News 11:40 News 11:50 Newsline 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 Magazine Show 24:00 News 24:10 Focus 24:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 News 21:40 Newsline 21:50 News Music USA 22:00 News & Editorial 22:15 News Music USA Jazz 23:00 News 23:30 World Report		
21:00	.....	Arabic series
22:00	.....	Highlights from Jerash Festival 1986
23:00	.....	News summary in Arabic

Thought forum to discuss plan of action for 1987

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will open a meeting in Amman on Jan. 10 under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to discuss the forum's plan of action for 1987. The Arab Thought Forum's board consists of 17 members including the Crown Prince.

According to an announcement issued in Amman on Wednesday, the board will hold a symposium on Jan. 11 at the Amman Plaza hotel to review alternative policies for dealing with the Arab countries foreign debts. Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and

Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan are among 40 participants invited to take part in the two-day symposium.

The participants will discuss four working papers dealing with the Arab World's foreign debts, the United Nations attitude with regard to such debts, means of protecting Arab investments and the plight of Arab capital.

The symposium is in implementation of recommendations taken by the Arab Thought Forum at its meeting in Amman during April of 1986.

Queen chairs discussions on project to train women in community development



Her Majesty Queen Noor chairs a meeting of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation to discuss a pilot programme to train women in community development. The director general of the foundation, Mrs. In'am Al Mufli, addresses the participants of the meeting held on Wednesday. (Petra photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Wednesday chaired a meeting at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to discuss the launching of the foundation's pilot community development project on training programmes for women in community development and management. The aim of this three and a half year project is to contribute towards attaining better social and living conditions for disadvantaged urban and rural women in the middle age bracket.

The project also aims at increasing the institutional capabilities of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) to develop, implement and manage locally-based family life and income generating programmes for women in a manner which would ensure their increased participation in Jordan's development schemes.

The Queen addressed the participants at the outset of the meeting, thanking the different agencies which are cooperating in implementing this pioneer project which is Jordan's first national community development programme for women, to be carried out with the coordination of public and private sectors in the Kingdom.

The Queen stressed that the key idea of this project is to activate and build upon the project aimed at raising the living standard of Jordanian women in a manner that would contribute to the human development of their family and the socio-economic development of their community and country.

The director general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Mrs. In'am Al Mufli, noted that the idea of this project was crystallised in Mexico City in 1984 when the Queen addressed a population conference held there.

The Queen expressed her keen wish that women of low-income families and living in rural areas be trained and given more chances to take part in the development of their homes, communities and society.

Mrs. Mufli also noted that with prospective total beneficiaries of 750 local disadvantaged women, the project will enable more women in Jordan to achieve personal and professional fulfilment. This, she added, will eventually have a positive impact on all members of society.

Speakers during the meeting also included director of the project, Mrs. Salwa Al Masri, and coordinator of the project, Dr. Eideh Al Mutlaq, who briefed the meeting on the project and its work plan.

Director of the department of women at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Mrs. Rabiha Dabbagh, and GFJW President Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir also briefed the meeting on their organisations' roles in implementing the project.

An open discussion followed during which a number of issues were raised, including ways and means of identifying and promoting non-traditional income-generating activities among disadvantaged urban and rural women, and the role of communications in creating knowledge, attitudes and practices which will ensure the effective implementation of community development and management projects in Jordan.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation is carrying out this project in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, and the women's department at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. It will be executed through the GFJW's voluntary services.

Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan, Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and the resident representative of the United Nations mission as well as a number of Jordanian development experts attended the meeting.

Health Ministry requests curb on scholarships

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry has requested the Ministry of Higher Education to refrain from offering students scholarships to study medicine because the country has a surplus of doctors and physicians. Training students in medical fields can only complicate the Kingdom's unemployment problem since many of the newly-graduated doctors are without employment at present, the Ministry of Health said.

However, the request made it clear that Jordan is still in need of certain specialists in some fields of medicine, such as food analysis, drug control, mental therapy, pathology, nuclear therapy, kidney diseases, tumour-affiliated diseases, neurology, blood diseases and plastic surgery.

WAJ awards hydraulic analysis, testing contract

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has awarded a JD 414,362 contract to a consortium of three companies which will conduct a hydraulic analysis and test water networks within the Greater Amman region.

The French company Sogreah, in cooperation with the British firm WSC and a local firm, Jousheh and Company, will carry out the project in 18 months, according to a WAJ spokesman. He said that the work will pave the way for modernising the water network by replacing old and faulty pipes with new ones.

The three companies will employ electronics and computers

to determine parts of the networks to be replaced and will also test pipes for leakage, according to Waj Director Mohammad Saleh Al Kelani who signed the contract with representatives of the three companies.

"The project will be a first stage since Waj will carry out similar ones in other parts of the Kingdom," the Kelani noted. Mr. Kelani said that Waj is at the same time carrying out a project which will enable Waj technicians and staff to automatically control all water resources and also wastewater drainage and sewerage operations in the Kingdom.

This project, he said, is bound to improve the process of supplying water and draining away wastewater from homes.

Chamoun survives car bomb attack

(Continued from page 1)

Army bomb disposal expert Youssef Bitar said the bomb, rigged in a blue Peugeot 504 Saloon, was set off by remote control. Fragments of the car were embedded in walls up to 500 metres away.

Smaller explosions followed the main blast as ammunition blew up in the wrecked car of Mr. Chamoun's bodyguards. People ducked for cover as it went up in a

shower of sparks and flame.

Mr. Gemayel condemned the car bomb attack in a broadcast on Voice of Lebanon radio, saying Mr. Chamoun was playing "a major role in efforts to save the country."

The bomb was meant to "re-establish tension in the country and undermine efforts to resolve its ordeal," Mr. Gemayel said.

China, Vietnam renew border fighting

(Continued from page 1)

Kampuchean guerrilla leader Norodom Sihanouk says he has Peking's word that it will bleed Vietnam white until it pulls 140,000 troops out of his homeland.

The latest surge of fighting could be a Chinese reminder to Hanoi that it stands by that promise, diplomats said.

Hanoi says China has fired more than a million rockets, mortar bombs and artillery shells into its territory since 1985.

The official New China News Agency reported from the

Yunnan province border that the Vietnamese had launched a dozen attacks on Chinese positions in the Laoshan area between early Monday and Wednesday morning.

It quoted military sources as saying the frontier guards had "repulsed repeated armed provocations by Vietnamese troops in the past few days."

In the first casualty figures given by China, the agency said the guards had "wiped out 200 Vietnamese troops" by about 7 a.m. on Monday.

It added that a Vietnamese

company was "annihilated" Wednesday morning.

Earlier Wednesday Peking disputed Hanoi's claim that more than 500 Chinese soldiers were killed in the fighting on their rugged mountain frontier.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman told a news conference the casualty figures announced by Hanoi were rumours to deceive the Vietnamese people and world opinion.

But he warned that China was closely watching developments on the border.

French jets 'knock out' Libyan radar

(Continued from page 1)

rebels, later bombed Ndjamena airport in the Chad capital.

In a radio interview Tuesday night Mr. Chirac described the Libyan raid last Sunday as an error rather than a challenge to France. He said the action "merited a call to order... which of course will be carried out."

Libya's diplomatic mission in Paris earlier acknowledged that its aircraft may have crossed the red line but described it as "an exceptional act which will not be repeated except in event of a new aggression."

Mr. Habre has been demanding French air cover in his battle to drive the Libyans from the north of his country, but until Wednesday France had restricted its support to parachuting food, munitions and fuel to Chadian forces battling Libyan armoured

columns.

The Defence Ministry gave no details of Wednesday's operation beyond identifying the raiders as being from the "Epervier" (sparrowhawk) deterrent force of 1,200 men. Jaguar fighter-bombers and anti-aircraft missiles based in Ndjamena.

Radio France Internationale said the attack on the radar installations was spearheaded by four Jaguars.

Sources at the French presidential palace said the decision to reply to the Libyan air raid on the town of Arada south of the 16th parallel was taken at a meeting on Monday of President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Chirac and Defence Minister Andre Giraud.

The French retaliation came as Chad was tightening its hold on recently-captured positions in the

northern region controlled by the Libyans for the past three years.

Libya says it has only several hundred men in Chad, while France estimates Tripoli's strength there at around 8,000.

Mr. Chirac and Mr. Mitterrand have both voiced political support for the Chad offensive in the north, but the French have ruled out any intervention by the French army north of the 16th parallel.

Mr. Chirac appeared to strike a new note in his broadcast Tuesday night by playing down the importance of the 16th parallel as an idea "that does not exist."

"It is out of the question for us to accept that the 16th parallel should be a kind of division of Chad," he said, adding that the red line merely marked the area whose integrity was guaranteed by France.

Education Ministry prepares comprehensive campaign to eradicate illiteracy by 2000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has prepared a comprehensive campaign to eradicate illiteracy in Jordan by the end of the 20th century and the plan envisages providing education to some 300,000 illiterate people living largely in the rural regions, according to Mr. Abdul Karim Al Simadi, head of the illiteracy section at the Ministry of Education.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy which falls on Thursday, Mr. Simadi said that Jordan has to solve the problem of illiteracy as it impedes the Kingdom's development projects.

He said that a survey conducted in 1979 revealed that 34.6 per cent of the total population above 15 years of age were illiterate. Estimating a drop of one per cent annually, the present rate should now stand at 28 per cent, he said. This means that 352,500 people are still illiterate and of this number, two thirds are female.

The Ministry of Education opened 700 centres for adult education in the past year, of which 113 were assigned for males and the rest for females, and at least 12,000 people, mostly women, attended classes and benefited from this form of education, Mr. Simadi pointed

out.

The programme for providing education to adults and illiterate people has been going on in all provinces through departments of education and with the help of information, media campaigns, lectures, documentaries and cultural programmes and by providing material and moral support for those excelling in their courses, Mr. Simadi continued.

The Ministry of Education, Mr. Simadi said, looks forward to the day when all the people in the country are literate so that everybody can participate in the development of the Kingdom. He attributed the presence of illiterate people to a large number of people who dropped out of school at an early age, specially in the rural regions, due to social and economic reasons and because previously there was no law making adult education mandatory. Also, a lack of sufficient funds in the past meant

that eradication of illiteracy projects could not be carried out in the Kingdom, he continued.

The Ministry of Education, Mr. Simadi said, now plans to open 60 centres for adult education in 30 villages in remote regions of Jordan as a first stage; and this programme will later be extended to other regions of the country.

Jordan was one of the first countries to enact legislation on educating adults and illiterate people and imposed compulsory education between the age of six and 16 in order to avoid having more illiterates in the country; and the Ministry of Education has been launching intensified campaigns for eradicating illiteracy and urging all illiterate adults to join literacy centres, Mr. Simadi added.

The Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy was established by the Arab League in 1966 and in 1970 the task of eradicating illiteracy in the Arab World was placed under the auspices of the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation which is helping Arab states solve the problem of illiteracy.

In Amman, a ceremony was held on Wednesday on the eve of the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy.

British residents caught off guard by new visa charges for Jordan

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British residents in Jordan were caught off guard upon returning to the Kingdom after their Christmas holidays when they were asked to pay visa charges at the airport. Under the new measures, British residents now have to pay visa fees and visa fees for all Britons have been increased. The new measures came into effect on Jan. 1, 1987.

Mr. Faisal Al Hmoud, director of the consular section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: "Jordan was taking reciprocal action to the recent increases of visa fees in the United Kingdom."

Mr. Al Hmoud explained that the British government sent out a circular to all its embassies abroad informing them of the increase in visa fees as of Nov. 18, 1986. All non-British nationals applying for a private, tourist, business, student, medical or re-entry visa to Britain must pay £20 or JD 10 to the British embassy in their respective countries. Those who want a multiple visa, which is valid for two years instead of one, must

pay £40 or JD 20 and applications for visas other than the ones mentioned above are £50 or JD 25. Diplomats and official delegates are exempt from these fees.

"These regulations apply to all countries, with the exception of the Soviet Union," said the vice consul of the British Embassy in Jordan, Mr. Steve Collier. The decision to raise the fees was to pay for the visa operations worldwide, added Mr. Collier.

"Just like the United Kingdom wants to benefit, we too want to benefit," said Mr. Al Hmoud. Therefore, as of Jan. 1, 1987, all Britons will be charged the same fees as those the United Kingdom charges. Previously, the Jordanian law exempted those who were residents "even though the British government has been charging for re-entry visas all along," said Mr. Collier. The new law revoked this exemption.

Britons with residence permits entering the Kingdom on Jan. 4 were livid when they were asked to pay the JD 10 visa fee, said one of the British passengers. "There

were long queues and the officials were not particularly helpful because they were harassed and harrassed from all sides while following orders they had received," the resident said.

An official at the Passport Department said that the order was given to them by the minister of Interior on Dec. 30, 1986 and "they (at the passport control) were just trying to fulfil their duty."

Asked about complaints, the first secretary at the British Embassy said that the embassy had received some complaints from Britons residing in the Kingdom "but it was up to each individual to take it up with the (Jordanian) authorities."

According to Mr. Ahmad Adhieh, deputy for the consular section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the concerned authorities delayed the ministry in informing Jordanian embassies abroad of the changes. "The embassies have now been informed but it may take another week before the regulation will be fully implemented," said Mr. Adhieh.

Heart transplants — one indication of Jordan's rapid progress in the health sector

By John Rice
Associated Press Writer

AMMAN — On a hillside where bedouins grazed their sheep just a few years ago, doctors at a modern medical centre have performed four successful heart transplants, dramatising Jordan's rapid development as a regional medical trailblazer.

There have been at least 3,500 heart transplants worldwide since Dr. Christian Barnard performed the first successful operation in 1967. But Jordan's programme — an outgrowth of His Majesty King Hussein's emphasis on health and educational development — is one of only a handful in the Third World, said Dr. Michael Kay, director of the International Cardiac Transplant Registry at the University of Minnesota.

"This was not a propaganda game," said Dr. Daoud Hananiya, Chief of Surgery at the Queen Alia Heart Institute. "This was done because we were convinced that, first, it was possible, and that it was a proper modality of treatment for an unfortunate number of patients. It had to come, and we were ready for it."

Dr. Hananiya performed Jordan's first cardiac transplant in August 1985, putting the heart of a 26-year-old car accident victim into 23-year-old student Abdullah Khalil. He has since done three more. All four patients are alive and only the most recent is still recovering in the hospital.

Dr. Hananiya said Jordanian surgeons have performed more than 6,000 open-heart operations since 1970 and now do about 650 a year at the institute. Advanced work also is being performed in neurosurgery and in kidney and cornea transplants, he said.

That represents a major turnaround for a country that had only one four-year secondary school immediately after World War II. There are now three universities, two with medical schools and, in addition, an estimated 60,000 to 100,000



Major General Daoud Hananiya with Jordan's first heart recipient Abdullah Khalil who underwent surgery in August 1985. To date, four successful heart transplant operations have been performed in Jordan (J.T. file photo)

young Jordanians are studying at colleges and universities abroad. Medicine and engineering are favoured subjects.

In 1965, Jordan had one physician for every 4,600 people. Today there is one for every 650 residents. The country has 7,000 registered doctors, 2,500 of whom work abroad. Another 7,000 are studying medicine now.

"That's why we're trying to find jobs and markets for doctors in the Arab countries," said Dr. Hassan Khreis, president of the Jordan Medical Association.

Because of the oversupply, Jordan has made a major industry of exporting skilled workers, among them doctors, to other Arab countries.

Dr. Hananiya, a 52-year-old Palestinian-Jordanian from Jerusalem, said he was surprised at how easily Jordanians have accepted the idea of brain death, which allows surgeons to transplant living hearts, and how willing people were to donate organs.

The military-run heart centre, part of the King Hussein Medical Centre on a grassy hillside west of Amman, is one of Jordan's most advanced medical units.

Costs of surgery

Military personnel and their families are treated free. Other Jordanians pay according to their income. Private patients and foreigners pay full fees, but even these are subsidised. "What they pay here is perhaps one-fourth or one-sixth of what it would cost them to go abroad," Dr. Hananiya said.

He said the first two heart transplants would have cost about JD 3,500 each after six months of care, mainly for drugs and laboratory work. "A coronary bypass would cost something like JD 1,000 to 1,500," he said, compared with a \$20,000 fee for such work in the United States.

Dr. Khreis noted, however, that "there's concern for other things which are more important and less expensive," such as attacking infant mortality rates.

Although heart transplants are costly for Jordan, which has an annual per-capita income of less than \$2,000, Dr. Hananiya said: "I don't think a developing country should stop doing sophisticated work. One must advance on all fronts at the same time."

King receives Murphy

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Murphy and the meeting at the Prime Ministry. However, the source said, the Jordanian side complained about the recently revealed U.S. arms sales to Iran, which the King had previously killed as "shocking," the AP further reported.

Mr. Murphy is expected to brief the press today on the outcome of his talks here before leaving for Israel, the second leg of his current swing in the Middle East which will also take him to Egypt, one U.S. embassy official told the Jordan Times.

The U.S. envoy said upon arrival in Amman that his visit to the region was aimed at exploring new paths towards reactivating the stalemated peace process in the Middle East.

However, State Department officials were quoted as ruling out that Mr. Murphy might be carrying any new U.S. initiatives geared to revive peace efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement in the region.

In his statement to the press at Marka airport, Mr. Murphy dismissed the concept of forming a preparatory committee as a prelude for an international conference as "not a very attractive proposition."

"For us the preparatory committee is not a very attractive proposition. So we will be discussing the peace process overall but we don't have much interest in a preparatory committee as such," he told reporters.

The idea of a preparatory committee was first floated by the Soviet Union and France during a visit to Moscow last year by French President Francois Mitterrand. Subsequently, when the Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres visited Egypt last November for a summit with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak both leaders said they agreed on such a preparatory body to pave the way for an international conference.

GCC backs OIC summit

(Continued from page 1)

Friday. Sheikh Sabah said the GCC foreign ministers at their two-day meeting in Riyadh stressed the importance of holding the summit in Kuwait as planned and expressed the hope that all Islamic countries would attend at the

highest level.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Jafar Mohallati arrived in Turkey Wednesday to seek support for his country's views prior to the Islamic summit due to be held in Kuwait later this month, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

Japanese ship hit in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

The attack was made three hours after Iranian coastguard ships intercepted the Japanese tanker, as they do all ships to ask where they are heading, and the Iranians appeared to be friendly at that time, the shipping sources said quoting reports from the tanker.

The conflict between Tehran and Baghdad has spilled over repeatedly into the strategic Gulf

waterway and last year 99 ships were hit, claiming the lives of more than 50 seamen.

Iran Wednesday denied that one of its warships attacked the Japanese tanker in the Gulf Tuesday.

"It was not by Iran," Kamal Kharrazi, head of the War Information Headquarters, told a news conference.

"Today the Persian Gulf is the scene of all sorts of confrontations," Kharrazi said.

Worldwide famine could follow nuclear war, scientists say

By Vanessa Bennett
Reuters

LONDON — Even if a nuclear war causes only a slight change in the earth's climate, those who survive the devastation could still face mass famine, according to the latest speculation by scientists studying the effects of nuclear holocaust.

The scientists will put forward their ideas at an international conference in Bangkok next month, which will ponder such concepts as "nuclear winter" — an apocalyptic vision of our planet shrouded in soot and plunged into freezing darkness after a nuclear war.

The 300 scientists from 30 countries are grouped under a body known as SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment), an international organisation supported by foundations and donations.

Recent media controversy over whether superpower war would plunge the world into nuclear winter, or some lesser nuclear

autumn, is a false trail getting in the way of serious research, a British SCOPE scientist, Dr. Mick Kelly, told Reuters.

His argument will be one of the theories put forward at the four-day SCOPE meeting in Bangkok, starting on Feb. 9, which will look into the effects of nuclear war on individual countries.

Kelly and SCOPE Chairman Sir Frederik Warner, of Britain's Essex University, told Reuters SCOPE had found that even the slightest of the temperature changes predicted in the event of nuclear war could cause crop failures and widespread hunger.

A single night below freezing was enough to destroy rice crops, Warner said, and a four-degree drop in temperature in the growing season could obliterate the whole Canadian wheat and barley harvest.

At the moment, Warner said, only major wheat-growing countries like the United States and Canada had large stores of food.

Studies carried out over the last four years into the effects a nuclear war would have on the world climate have come out with widely differing results.

First came the nuclear winter theory, pointing to drastic changes in the global climate after a nuclear war.

According to this theory, smoke from burning cities and woodland would stay in the earth's atmosphere as soot particles and block out the sun's light. Temperatures would drop by up to 35 Centigrade (60 Fahrenheit). If temperatures fell that far, all life would be extinguished and arctic night would settle over the planet.

Then came a nuclear autumn study published last June which said life on earth need not be destroyed by nuclear war, despite the wholesale devastation of cities and deaths from radiation.

American researchers Stanley Thompson and Stephen Schneider of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado, said their model of the global climate after a

nuclear war looked "more like nuclear fall than nuclear winter."

Their results showed a temperature drop of around 10-15 degrees Centigrade (20-30 Fahrenheit) within a month of the war, with rain removing three-quarters of the smoke and soot from the atmosphere as "black rain" in the same period.

Their conclusion, widely quoted in the British press, was: "on scientific grounds the global apocalyptic conclusion of the initial nuclear winter hypothesis can now be relegated to a vanishingly low level of probability."

In last autumn's issue of the U.S. magazine the National Interest, Russell Seitz, a visiting lecturer at Harvard University, denounced the nuclear winter theory as "psychic numbing" to inhibit NATO's use of nuclear weapons.

Seitz called it a "pernicious fantasy that... attempts to transform the alliance doctrine of flexible response into a dangerous vision."

But the whole controversy over nuclear winter and nuclear autumn is meaningless, according to SCOPE's Dr. Kelly, a nuclear physicist at the University of East Anglia who also acts as a spokesman for the British group Scientists Against Nuclear Arms (SANA).

The nuclear winter theory was the most drastic of about 40 possible post-war climate changes worked out by the SCOPE tests, Kelly said.

"It is crucial to remember that nuclear winter is only one of a range of possibilities, and nuclear autumn is within that range," which goes from virtually no cooling to full-blown nuclear winter," he said.

Kelly said the Bangkok meeting would open a second phase of investigations. "We now want to start research into the effects of nuclear war on individual countries, looking at how much food is likely to be stored at different times of year..." he said.

The Bangkok meeting will review recent tests on the effects

of nuclear war on the atmosphere, and will examine in more detail the ecological and agricultural consequences of war.

It will look at "stress ecology" or how the natural world recovers from major shocks — for instance, what would happen to rice crops if the monsoons came at the wrong time.

What would happen if the infrastructure collapsed, and there were no imports or exports? What is the capacity of each country in the world? How much food does it produce and how much does it import? What kind of stocks does it have?

According to Britain's New Scientist magazine, studies by nuclear autumn theorists Thompson and Schneider, who will be at the meeting, pinpoint the indirect effects of a nuclear war, such as widespread hunger, as being among the most devastating.

They would threaten "more people globally than would be direct effects of explosions in a large nuclear war."

Razing the roof

By Philip Melchior
Reuters

NOTHING is uglier than an ugly rooftop and how ugly some of the rooftops are in town. Often, the house is beautiful and eye-catching, but on the rooftop, more often than not, there is inevitably at least one zinc water tank marring the otherwise nice appearance of the building. Even worse are some of those solar heating systems which often carry the name of the manufacturer painted in big letters so that they can be read from afar.

Television antennas are also often very whimsical. So many "Eiffel" towers and other ludicrous iron and steel structures are erected on rooftops creating a ridiculous effect.

Last, but certainly not least, are the columns of cement and steel jutting up on the roofs. Obviously, some of the landlords have plans to build another storey — one day. The messes that these rooftops represent are quite an eyesore.

In Amman Municipality, officials tell me that they have been taking a "tough" attitude towards unfinished buildings and are refusing to issue occupancy certificates before the appearance of the building has been put in order. In the suburbs of the capital things are, to say the least, not so neat, tidy and well-ordered. Steel rods, bars and concrete pillars protrude from every rooftop and no-one seems to be bothered. Why don't the concerned authorities set a deadline, say five years from the date of licence, for the completion of the building or eliminating the columns that jut out.

As for the water tanks and solar heating systems, I am sure some way can be found to accommodate them in a nicer way. Above all, it would be a pleasure to get rid of the cheap publicity symbols some carry.

Museums blow off the cobwebs

U.K. museums are coming out of their cobwebbed slumbers and discovering publicity and marketing skills. Antony Thorncroft describes how the purveyors of 15th-century life are adapting to 20th-century realities.

LONDON — Once every fortnight, somewhere in the U.K. a new museum opens its doors to the public. By the end of 1986, there were 2,000 museums, the great majority privately funded, pandering to the national obsession with the past, compared with 900 in 1963. In all, there are over 65 million museum visits a year, well above attendances at football matches.

As Mr. Brian Morris, chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, asserts: "There is overwhelming evidence of the importance which British society places on its heritage and art," only to add: "It is an enthusiasm not shared by the government."

For museums, along with the arts generally, remain one sector which has been overlooked in the government's discovery of the joys of higher public expenditure. Some days ago, the Minister for the Arts, Mr. Richard Luce, announced an increase in the museum budget for 1987-88 of 3.75 per cent. For the directors and trustees of the 23 major national and regional museums and art galleries, dependent on government aid, this will mean another round of agonised economies, deferred plans and re-consideration of that most explosive of topics, admission charges.

The problem for the museums is epitomised by the experiences of the Natural History Museum, one of the most popular in the country with total annual admissions of around 2.6 million last year. From April, the museum will be introducing a £2 (\$2.84) admission charge for adults with the aim of raising £1.2 million a year. Even if it is successful, it will still not have closed the projected gap in its funding for 1987-88 of £1.5 million.

This gap has been caused by a succession of inadequate government grants. For the current year, the museum is receiving £12.9 million in revenue, 88 per cent of it state subsidy. This sum largely covers staff salaries, which account for over 80 per cent of the museum's running costs.

Under nationally-negotiated agreements, salaries were increased by 8 per cent, leaving the museum with the task of finding the extra cash. In the past, it has shed staff, postponed planned exhibitions, and kept galleries dark. It now sees admission charges as its only hope; the alternative is large-scale redundancies.

The director, Dr. Ron Hedley, is resigned to a 40 per cent fall in attendances following the introduction of admission charges, although he hopes that in time they will recover. He has no enthusiasm for the innovation but, given the museum's tremendous research and curatorial responsibilities — it is home to 65 million objects, more than any other museum — he cannot contemplate more staff cuts.

By going for a fixed charge, with exceptions for school parties and so forth, the Natural History Museum hopes to avoid the confusion, and the bad press, which accompanied the decision of its neighbour, the V and A — Victoria and Albert — to introduce a voluntary charge last November. This has proved something of a disappointment, bringing in just over £400,000 in its first year, as against a planned £500,000, and with almost half the revenue eaten up in costs.

The scheme will generate more income in 1987, and enable the V and A to open on Fridays for the first time in a decade, but it reduced attendances by 40 per cent and caused much ill-will.

Admission charges have split the national museums down the middle. They were pioneered by the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich which raised over £400,000 in revenue last year this way and has almost recouped its "lost" attendances. It was followed by the Imperial War Museum, which is using its admission charge to prove to potential benefactors that it is doing its bit to raise the \$9 million it needs for a building extension.

But the National Gallery is absolutely opposed to charges, as is, less fervently, the British Museum. The Science Museum is

wavering. All the museums know that the government, if not pushing them into charging, is keen that they should increase the revenue they generate themselves, and thus become no greater burden on the public purse. To this end, Mr. Luce earlier this year "liberated" the museums, allowing them to keep any income they earned from their shops, restaurants, and so on. In the past, it was deducted from their next year's grant.

The museums are happy that they will no longer be penalised for showing enterprise — at least for the next three years, after which the government will be reviewing the situation — but are well aware that the price to be paid is less subsidy. Already, purchase grants have been cut drastically, causing Brian Morris to comment: "Collections must grow, otherwise they lose their life-blood."

The minister's answer to the complaints of the museums is: "Improve your marketing." He points to museums in the U.S. where, on average, admission charges account for only 6 per cent of revenue but shops provide 9 per cent and restaurants, parking facilities and so on another 10 per cent. In the U.K., the Natural History Museum and the National Portrait Gallery earn over 10 per cent of their revenue, but other museums are only slowly starting to overhaul their catering services and their shops; next year the V and A will be selling replicas of its treasures in its enlarged shop.

Mr. Luce also points to the opportunities for museums to raise sponsorship money. The British Museum has been successful here, and currently has a major exhibition on the history of money, sponsored by Nationwide Building Society; the Museum of London was recently home to a Boots, the chemists, No. 7 cosmetics promotion, built around the "Let's face it" exhibition; and the V and A has persuaded a string of companies to assist in its revamping — recently, the mediaeval treasury gallery was refurbished with THF money; in December Toshiba is paying for a better Japanese display; and in summer 1987, the courtyard will bloom again, thanks to Firelli.

Many directors of museums are ill-served by background and temperament to become salesmen for their institutions — they also begrudge the time. But that seems to be their future. The government is adamant that it cannot increase its subsidy.

The big national museums, with their influential trustees, can often tap alternative sources of revenue. The National Gallery is getting a new extension thanks to the Sainsbury supermarket family, and has a planned £50 million purchasing foundation thanks to J Paul Getty Jr. The Tate will soon be opening its Turner Gallery, a gift of the Clorox Foundation.

But less glamorous institutions, and especially local and university museums, face a very bleak future. They will become "museums," locked in the past, shoring up crumbling and unrefreshed collections, with no facilities for research, exhibitions or purchases, unless they can change the government's mind — or discover marketing skills — Financial Times feature.



THE operating room of the Microsurgery Institute is dubbed "eyesight recovery automated line"

GOOD SIGHT FOR EVERYBODY! THIS is the motto of Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov, the head of the Moscow Scientific Research Eye Microsurgery Institute which has developed original methods of treatment for eye diseases, including grafting artificial lenses and cornea, correction of myopia and astigmatism, now used by the ophthalmologists throughout the world.

Professor Fyodorov and his co-workers travel a lot about the Soviet Union and abroad to share their unique methods with their colleagues.

More than 25,000 people leave every year the Institute happy to be rid of the blur in eyes.

Prof. Fyodorov and his colleagues often hear words of gratitude in many languages from their

where dozens of operations are daily held. (Photo by P. Novos. TASS).

former patients for the returned gift to see the world.

An associate fellow of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Prof. Svyatoslav Fyodorov was one of the first doctors who was awarded the honourable title of a Merited Inventor of the USSR, conferred on the authors of inventions, which open new directions in development of science and technology or which are of a special importance to the national economy. Though correcting eyesight has no apparent ties with the economy, thousands of Prof. Fyodorov's patients were able to resume their disability pension and resume their jobs as they regained their eyesight. (Fotokhronika TASS)

Worry over forest death spreads to N. America

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — For the past six or seven years, the forests of central Europe have been getting sick at a rate that is alarming many of the world's tree scientists.

The cause remains to be found. Hundreds of research projects are under way. Air pollution and natural stresses are suspected, but nobody knows for sure. Ozone, an irritating, bluish gas that helps form smog, may be a major cause.

Air pollution has replaced "acid rain" as a broadened phrase to describe the suspected cause of the mysterious malady that afflicts 15 European countries. The damaged area in central Europe is about the size of West Virginia. And it's growing.

So is concern about inexplicable declines in North American forests.

Big Damage in Germany
The problem was first observed on a large scale in West Germany in the late 1970s. Since then, it has damaged an estimated 52 to 55 per cent of that country's forests. At least 11 species of trees, both coniferous and deciduous, have been affected. The Germans call it *waldsterben* — forest death.

That many species "suffering on a subcontinental basis at the same time has never occurred anywhere in the world before," says Ellis B. Cowling, associate dean for research at North Carolina State University's School of Forest Resources.

Cowling, an authority on

declining forests, testified last month at a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee hearing on the effects of acid deposition and other air pollutants on forest productivity.

Cowling has written about the "widespread, simultaneous, and abrupt decrease" in the growth rate of certain conifers in the eastern United States, and about other symptoms of tree damage, especially at higher elevations.

"We're going to have to invest substantial money, and do it over time," he testified at the House hearing.

Cowling's concern is shared by some members of Congress, among them Representative Charlie Whiteley, Democrat, North Carolina, chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy, which held the hearing. Whiteley and others have introduced bills to broaden forest research beyond just acid rain.

"We feel that research in a lot of areas has been inadequate," says Whiteley, who has travelled to Europe for a firsthand look at *waldsterben*. In those forests, he says, "We're not just talking about losing a little bit of timber. We're talking big bucks."

Many blame ozone
Testimony showed "an increasing belief in the scientific community that ozone may be the prime culprit, as opposed to acid rain," Whiteley says. Significant reductions in ozone could save the U.S. forest industry \$2 billion a year, he estimates.

The problem on the two

continents has become acute enough that the World Resources Institute and the International Institute for Environment and Development recently devoted a chapter to it in their report, "World Resources 1986."

"What this means," the report states, "is that no single pollutant control strategy is likely to be effective in dealing with forest decline — it will take nothing less than a total integrated mix of strategies and technologies, tailored for each region, to significantly improve air quality in Europe and North America."

In 1982, as a result of a 1980 law, a multi-agency effort called the National Acid Precitation Assessment Programme was organised in the United States.

"Something's happening that's unexplainable," says Courtney Rjord, director of acid deposition for the Environmental Protection Agency. "It's all based on hunch." If the assessment programme's scientists are lucky, he says, their research may produce a "mother lode of information" on U.S. forest decline by 1988 or 1989.

Cowling figures that, with extended financing, it'll take five or 10 years to find out what's going on.

He doesn't foresee the problem in North America becoming as acute as it is in Europe because conditions in the two continents are so different. He notes that the United States has lower pollution concentrations, different and more diverse tree species, cleaner air, and lower population and automobile density than in Europe.

Ghosts of explorers live side by side with modern Antarctica

By Philip Melchior
Reuters

CAPE ROYDS, Antarctica — Its timber bleached white by the weather, the old wooden hut is full of the ghosts of men who were first drawn to the Antarctic by the allure still holds for many today.

Sitting in a small hollow in a black and white landscape of rock and snow, looking out across ice-covered McMurdo Sound to the trans-Antarctic mountains, the hut was home to perhaps the greatest Antarctic explorer of all — Britain's Ernest Shackleton.

Elsewhere in the Antarctic, today's explorers travel by helicopter and motorised toboggan. They wear high-tech clothing and use radios to keep in close contact with their centrally-based bases.

But here, preserved by the world's coldest and driest climate, little has changed since 1909. In March that year Shackleton abandoned the hut when he left McMurdo Sound after failing by just 180 km to reach the South Pole.

Three years later another Briton, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, and Norway's Roald Amundsen raced each other to become the first men to reach the world's southern-most point.

Heavy felt inner-boots still sit in the snow porch with oddments of the harnesses from Shackleton's Manchurian ponies.

Inside, cans of roast beef, kidney soup, Irish stew, bottles of raspberries and currants, and number one army rations cover the shelves.

Two whole mustn-wrapped hams still hang in the kitchen alcove, and on the table copies of the illustrated London News record the election of British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith.

The hut is dark and evocative. Only today's icemen in their bright yellow, down-filled clothing distinguish it from contemporary photographs.

A few miles further south along the coast of Ross Island at Cape Evans, stands the hut from which Scott launched his tragic bid for the pole, a race he lost to Amundsen before dying of starvation and exposure on his return.

Like Shackleton's but, it is a silent, poignant testimony to the privations and the endurance of the explorers who opened up the frozen wastelands of the coldest, windiest, driest place on earth.

Gareth Wood, a 35-year-old Canadian who, with two Britons in the "Footsteps of Scott" expedition recreated the journeys of Scott and Shackleton last southern summer, told Reuters his predecessors' images are always there.

Wood, spending a second year on the ice in a comfortable but about 100 metres from Scott's hut at Cape Evans, found it "a real privilege to be here on the same beach" as Scott.

"We drew a lot of parallels," he said. Self-sufficient but lonely and isolated, Wood and the two men with him — Stevie Broni and Tim Lovejoy — form a bridge between the past and present.

If they want to travel the 32 km south to the United States' McMurdo station and New Zealand's Scott base they have to walk or ski — a journey which has taken them less than five hours or as long as five days.

Scott base, with a summer population about 100, and "Mactown" with about 1,100 people, sit on either side of observation hill crowned by a cross commemorating Scott and his party.

But in the modern Antarctic, there are few reminders of the "heroic age" other than framed photos on the wall, and, on the outskirts of bustling McMurdo, the slightly bedraggled remains of the hut that housed both Shackleton and Scott when they first came south together on Scott's 1901-4 expedition.

Stewart Guy, who is running Scott base and New Zealand's Antarctic programme for the 1986/87 season, told Reuters his major problem when the season began was to ensure base dwellers appreciated the severity of the Antarctic.

"I don't think you can prepare people for the sheer intensity of the weather," he said.

Inside the base it's a warm, cosy, more-or-less normal lifestyle. But you step out through a 50 cm wall and you're in a dangerous, unforgiving environment.

"People look at the Antarctic and the great white wastes and they get a bit starry-eyed," Guy said. "They come here expecting to enjoy the scenery and perhaps don't appreciate how hard it is to work here."

In the summer, the 24-hour sunlight is disorientating, the extreme dryness hard to endure. Temperatures, even in McMurdo Sound can easily fall to a chill factor of 50 degrees centigrade below zero at this time of year.

Mechanical transport, first introduced unsuccessfully to the Antarctic by Shackleton, is now a necessity.

But it's still a problem. Engines can take days to thaw out if allowed to get cold, mechanics' lives can be misery by working in conditions where the simple repairs can take five times as long as they would at home.

Los Angeles electrician Marty Foss volunteered to spend a full year at the U.S. Amundsen-Scott South Pole base after seeing an advertisement in a local paper.

Divorced not long before... "it seemed like it could be a fun thing to do," said the man who had previously never been further south than Tijuana, Mexico.

Mactown has basketball teams, aerobics classes and a radio station, but most of the entertainment on both sides of observation hill is in the bar.

But Captain Dave Srite, commander of the U.S. Navy's operation Deep Freeze in the Antarctic, regards drink as less of a problem here than in most U.S. navy bases.

And for all its difficulties, the Antarctic still holds the same fascination that brought Shackleton and Scott back after they swore they would never return.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCES 1985	
	Number of visitors
British Museum, London	3,822,277
National Gallery, London	3,156,725
Science Museum, London	2,729,947
Natural History Museum, London	2,641,806
Jewel House, Tower of London	1,780,185
Victoria & Albert Museum, London	1,654,052
National Railway Museum, York	1,111,690
Burrell Collection, Glasgow	1,065,951
Tate Gallery, London	960,105
Jorvik Viking Centre, York	897,290

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Washington Bullets post 112-97 win over Clippers

NEW YORK (AP) — Jay Vincent scored 23 points in his first regular season appearance with Washington as the Bullets posted a 112-97 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers in the National Basketball Association.

Vincent, acquired by the Bullets in an off-season trade with the Dallas Mavericks, suffered a ruptured tendon in his right ring finger in the first quarter of Washington's opening exhibition game.

He received help in leading the Bullets to Tuesday night's win from Rookie John Williams, who was shifted from forward to point guard.

"This is what we wanted to accomplish in October," coach Kevin Loughery said of his new lineup. "But because of injuries and several other things, it did not come about."

Williams scored nine points, grabbed six rebounds and handed out five assists.

Vincent, who played 35 minutes, was happy with his first official performance in Washington.

"I think I handled myself well," Vincent said.

Vincent may be able to take some of the scoring burden off the Malones — Moses and Jeff — either of whom has led the Bullets in scoring in 30 of 31 games this season.

Moses Malone led the Bullets with 27 points in 28 minutes, while Jeff Malone had 23 points and seven assists.

Michael Cage led the Clippers with 20 points and a season-high 18 rebounds.

Knicks 118, Hawks 86

New York's Gerald Wilkins

didn't outscore his brother, Dominique, but his team won.

The Knicks guard had 19 points, while the Hawks forward had three more, but the game was never as close as the brothers' battle after halftime.

Patrick Ewing finished with 31 points to lead the Knicks to their fifth straight home game for the first time since March 1984.

Bulls 99, Cavaliers 95

Cleveland held Michael Jordan under 30 points for only the fifth time this season, but the Bulls allowed the Cavaliers one field goal in 16 shots over the game's final 8:45.

Jordan, who is averaging 37.3 points per game, finished with 27 as the Cavaliers lost their fourth straight.

Charles Oakley added 15 points and 18 rebounds for the Bulls. Rookie Ron Harper led the Cavaliers with 22.

Bucks 124, Nets 112

The Bucks beat the Nets easily, but lost guard Paul Pressey with a dislocated right ring finger. Bucks team physician Dr. David Haskell said Pressey would be out of action for at least three weeks.

Ricky Pierce scored 27 points and Terry Cummings and Craig Hodges added 24 each for the Bucks, who won their third straight. Buck Williams scored 18 points and Orlando Woolridge 16 to lead New Jersey.

Pacers 101, Spurs 99

A goaltending act against San Antonio's Artis Gilmore with

three seconds remaining gave the Pacers their fourth straight victory.

Gilmore was called for interfering with a short jumper by Vern Fleming. Fleming's shot came after San Antonio missed three shots in the previous 30 seconds.

Steve Stipanovich led the Pacers with 19 points, while Fleming had 17. San Antonio was led by Mike Mitchell and Johnny Dawkins with 24 points each.

Warriors 118, Rockets 100

Eric "Sleepy" Floyd scored 31 points and handed out 11 assists to snap the Rockets' three-game winning streak.

Floyd connected on two 3-point field goals and scored three times on 3-point plays. Joe Barry Carroll added 22 points for the Warriors, while Terry Teague and Chris Mullin, scored 21 and 15 points, respectively.

Houston was led by Lewis Lloyd with 23 points.

Supersonics 138, Suns 108

Tom Chambers' 29 points led four Seattle players over 20 as the Supersonics registered their highest point total of the season.

Xavier McDaniel added 28 points and 12 rebounds for Seattle, while Alton Lister scored a season-high 25 and Dale Ellis added 21. Phoenix's Walter Davis finished with 29 points.

Kings 112, Nuggets 104

Otis Thorpe scored 27 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as Sacramento snapped a five-game losing streak. Denver forward Alex English led all scorers with 30 points.

The game was played with one official after referee Tom Nunez fell and broke his right wrist with 7:40 to go in the first half.

Kenyans increase lead in Paris-Dakar Rally

TAMARRASSET, Algeria (AP) — Kenyans Shekar Mehta and Mike Doughty in a Peugeot 205 and France's Cyril Neveu on a Honda increased their leads in the auto and motorcycle divisions of the Paris-Dakar Rally on Tuesday's 560 kilometre Algerian stage.

Mehta again set the fastest time for cars over the difficult southern Algerian tracks, while Italian Alessandro De Petri (Caviga) was the fastest rider. Second place in the stage gave Neveu, who has won four of the eight Paris-Dakar events to date, an increased overall lead.

Big losers were the factory Mitsubishi Pajeros, as only last year's joint winner Jean Da Silva of France arrived at the finish within two hours of the first car

across the line, and more than an hour behind Mehta.

The British team of Andrew Cowan and Johnstone Syer, second last year, had repeated shock absorber failures on their Pajero, as did Da Silva and the third team car driven by France's Hubert Riga.

Their problems let their rivals, the Range Rover driven by France's Raoul Raymond and Dani Ferret, into second place overall.

Going into Niger Wednesday, the terrain changes to much longer sandy stretches leading into the depths of the Sahara sand dunes, where the conventional four-wheel drive cars may have greater advantages over the Peugeot.

Snodin, Robson move to new English soccer clubs

LONDON (AP) — Two prospective England midfielders of the future, Ian Snodin and Stewart Robson, moved to new clubs Tuesday on a day of frenzied, big-money soccer transfer action.

Snodin, who had been offered identical personal terms by Liverpool and Everton, the two Merseyside giants, finally opted for Everton after taking several days to decide and moved from Second Division Leeds United for a fee of £840,000 (\$1.26 million).

Robson travelled across London to switch from championship leader Arsenal to West Ham for a fee of £700,000 (\$1.05 million).

Liverpool moved in for Snodin 18 months ago when the midfielder was with Doncaster Rovers, but was beaten to him that time by Leeds. The defending English League champion lost out again when the player agreed to move to Everton.

"It was a very difficult decision to make," said 22-year-old Snodin, who would have joined an array of international stars at either Merseyside club.

"Everton are certainly as good

as Liverpool at the moment. They are a young side and are capable of dominating the race for honours in the late 1980's. My decision is going to upset half of Merseyside."

Everton currently stands second in the English First Division, four points behind Arsenal and six ahead of Liverpool.

Leeds United manager Billy Bremner said the cash from the Snodin deal would be used immediately to finance his club's push for promotion from the Second Division.

Robson, a former England under-21 captain, has been troubled by a pelvic injury for more than a year and had doubts about his long-term future at Arsenal, which is four points clear at the top of the First Division.

Reports said Robson had been unhappy at the club for some time and was not expected to be able to break back into the first team when he has recovered full fitness.

West Ham manager John Lyall said Robson, a highly competitive player, was back in training and should be ready "in seven to 10 days."

England wins cricket challenge

PERTH, Australia (AP) — A fourth wicket stand of 89 between Allan Lamb and skipper Mike Gatting ensured England would take most of the \$61,000 prize money in the Benson and Hedges Cricket Challenge at the WAC Ground on Wednesday.

After a couple of early alarms, England coasted to a five-wicket victory with 9.5 overs to spare in the final to remain unbeaten in the competition and finish with \$29,000 in prize money.

England, now a confident and supremely professional outfit as demonstrated by its easy Ashes Series win over Australia, took \$20,000 from the final in addition to \$9,000 for its three wins in the preliminary matches against Pakistan, the West Indies and Australia.

Lamb and Gatting came

together with England in some trouble at 3-47, but took advantage of Pakistan captain Imran Khan's curious use of his bowlers to set up a comprehensive England victory.

They steered England to within 30 runs of victory and from that point Pakistan had little chance.

Imran used a group of his weaker bowlers for the spare 10 overs rather than use his four top men in an endeavour to bowl England out.

Why he did not concentrate on his specialists and go all out for a win was mysterious because Pakistan had no chance of defending a total of 166 against a team containing David Gower, Lamb, Gatting and Ian Botham.

It was finally Botham who hit the winning runs and remained unbeaten on 23.

India's Dev scores historic 'double treble'

CUTTACK, India (AP) — Indian captain Kapil Dev became the second all-rounder in test cricket history to score a "double treble" Wednesday as India clinched its second consecutive innings victory over Sri Lanka.

The Indians wrapped up the three-test series 2-0 minutes after the lunch break on the fourth day of the match at Cuttack's Barabati Stadium.

Dev, the highest wicket taker in Indian history, became the second all-rounder in international cricket after Englishman Ian Botham to capture 300 wickets and score 3,000 runs in tests. The 27-year-old star cricketer reached the landmark when he bowled Sri Lankan Ramesh Ranayake in the morning.

Dev passed the 3,000-run mark earlier, and now has a test aggregate of 3,486 runs. It was Dev's hurricane knock of 60 on the second day of the test match that turned the tide in India's favour.

Only six other international bowlers so far have reached the 300-wicket landmark. They are Botham, with 365 wickets, Australian Denis Lillee, with 355, Richard Hadlee of New Zealand, with 334, Englishman Bob Willis, with 325, Lance Gibbs of the West Indies, with 309, and Fred Trueman of England, with 307.

Mandlikova advances in NSW Open

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Top-seed Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia defeated South African Elina Reinach 6-1, 6-3 Wednesday in the second round of the \$150,000 New South Wales Open tennis tournament at White City.

Mandlikova, 24, had too much power and variety for Reinach. She will meet 10th-seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia on Thursday.

Turnbull powered into the third round of the Grass Court Championships with a 6-1, 7-6 triumph over her 17-year-old compatriot Nicole Provis.

In other second-round action, South African teenager Dinky Van Rensburg upset eighth-seeded Robin White of the United States 6-3, 2-6, 6-1. American Anne Smith defeated Patricia Hy of Hong Kong 6-4, 6-1, and Australian Anne Minter struggled past Anne Hobbs of Britain 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

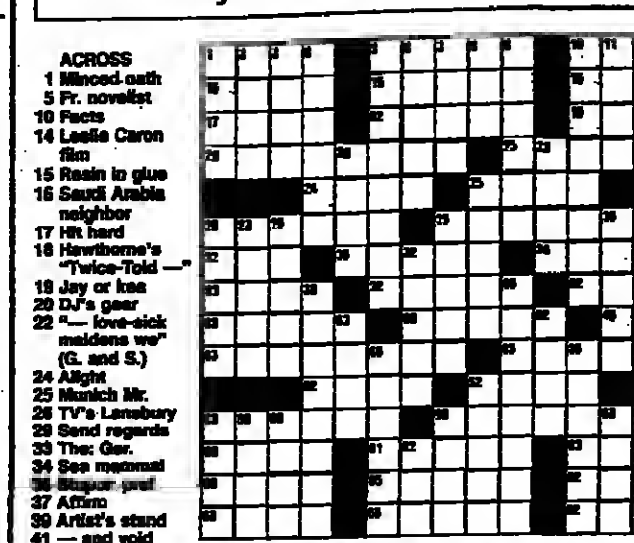
Americans Zina Garrison and Lori McNeil advanced in the only third-round singles contests completed Wednesday.

Sixth-seeded Garrison breezed by fellow American Camille Benjamin 6-4, 6-2, while seventh-seeded McNeil edged compatriot Elise Burgin 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.

Second-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States faces compatriot Gretchen Rush in the third round Thursday, while third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia meets American Anna-Maria Fernandez.

Mandlikova said she expected

THE Daily Crossword by Larry Goldthorpe



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Runner Coghlan is 'good' after incident

By Bert Rosenthal
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan, the fastest indoor mile in history, says reports of possible career-threatening injuries when he was bitten by a dog in Dublin were greatly exaggerated.

"The media scared a lot of people, more than the dog scared me," Coghlan said Tuesday by telephone from his suburban home.

"The incident was bad enough; I got bitten five times and had my left hand broken. But afterward, people were writing that I would be unable to run this indoor season, and by not running indoors, I would lose \$75,000."

"That's not true. I had said afterward that if I missed 10 days of training, it could affect my indoor season. I missed only two."

Despite suffering three bites on the right leg, two on the left leg

and a broken patella bone on the left hand, which required surgery and five stitches, the 34-year-old Coghlan is anxiously looking forward to the indoor season.

He plans to run the mile next weekend in the Eastern Kodak Invitational in Johnson City, Tennessee, against 1976 Olympic 1,500-metre gold medalist John Walker of New Zealand and Ray Flynn of Ireland.

"If I can't get into full speed by then, I will change to the two-mile," Coghlan said. "I've trained too well to let this bother me. I've had worse things than dog bites. If I had a stress fracture, I would be more concerned."

Miraculously, Coghlan began training again only three days after the dog attacked him during a training run Dec. 27. His first workout, on a stationary bicycle, was followed the next day with an 11 kilometre run, then 16 kilometres on each of the succeeding three days.

Coghlan's most serious wounds

are one of the right calf — which he said will be bandaged for about another month to ward off infection — and one on the left leg, where "the bandage might come off this weekend."

"The wounds are deep. The one on the back of the right calf is the most severe. You can still see the muscles through the skin. It's about the size of a dime. They couldn't stitch it up because there was dead tissue and an uneven cut. It could get more infected, if they did."

The first few days of training were extremely painful.

"It felt like the muscles were tearing open where the holes are," Coghlan said. "It's still not comfortable. I have to hold the muscles tight. If I relax, I feel some twinges. But my body has responded well. Each day it's getting better."

"I feel good and I feel strong. The only thing I lost last week by missing those two days of training was some power. And by the end of this week, I should have that back. Each day, the pain is decreasing."

Coghlan said the dog has been found and that he did not have to undergo painful rabies shots.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM MU'TA TRAVEL AND TOURISM OFFICE OFFICE MOVING

The Mu'ta Travel and Tourism office is pleased to announce to its customers that its offices have been relocated from the Marriott Hotel to new premises opposite the Plaza Hotel and the Housing Bank Centre. It is our pleasure to receive you and we are at your service daily from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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Cinema Tel: 675373
OPERA
HELL CAMP
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Cinema Tel: 677420
PLAZA
ALL THE WAY BOYS
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198
RAGHADAN
THE OCTAGON
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 8:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4735/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3728/33	Canadian dollars
	2.9270/80	West German marks
	2.1760/70	Dutch guilders
	1.6215/25	Swiss francs
	40.15/20	Belgian francs
	6.4170/20	French francs
	1349.5/1350.5	Italian lire
	158.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.7675/7725	Swedish crowns
	7.3850/900	Norwegian crowns
	7.3050/100	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	398.90/399.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities continued to firm throughout the session on strong institutional demand fuelled by Wall Street's recent record performance.

At 1423 GMT the FTSE 100 share index stood just 0.2 below its previous closing high of 1,717.6 reached on April 3 last year but the mixed opening on Wall Street Wednesday dampened market enthusiasm somewhat, dealers added.

"It's the most impressive days trading since big bang," one equity trader said. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 had gained a net 22.7 points to 1,713.4 while at 1500 GMT the FT 30 had added 16.6 points to 1,350.9.

Pharmaceutical stocks featured, with Fisons 26p higher at 561 and Glaxo 57p better at 1,149, both on brokers' recommendations. Reckitt and Colman added 17p to 895 in sympathy.

Major gainers included ICI, up 35p at 1,126, BAT 18p at 480, BASS 22p at 760, BPB Industries 16p at 559 and Tarmac 15p to 445. Blue Circle added 17p to 705 on speculation that Adelaide Steamship may increase its stake in the company.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Implement those new ideas that you have been considering by putting them into detailed and practical execution. Financial plans get successful attention today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A fine day to get all of your affairs better organized. Proceed without fear and be safe.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make sure to get your health and appearance improved so that you can make your activities more successful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get in touch with successful advisors and gain the knowledge you need to prosper at a personal level.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You can get good suggestions from your friends today. Utilize them wisely for fine results.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day to be more active in business. Go to an influential person for a favor and get it easily.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your intuition is fine today. You can gain a better attitude that will bring you more success with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can make sales or purchases with or from those in the same line of work as you. Be happy today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Know what it is that your associates desire and assist them in their needs. You will get reciprocal support.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you persevere in your endeavors, you can make this a profitable and satisfying Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The amusements you desire should be practical. Be sure to do something thoughtful for your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your abode and see how you can make it more attractive. Invite guests in tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure to reply to important letters. Be clever in making out statements. Precision is the key today.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 9, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today is very good for meeting with those who have the power to grant you any materialistic favors. Don't forget to relax and unwind after tense day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Talk over with bankers how best to invest your holdings. After a lot of studying, don't be careless.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact your most prominent friends and gain their assistance where a personal matter is concerned.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Show more gentility with your mate. An important person can be very supportive of you today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Seek the assistance of those in positions of power to help you gain some personal aims.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get busy on credit and business affairs. Stop hiding your fine personality. Keep away from expensive pleasures.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Dig into new interests that can make life more interesting and profitable for you. Be diplomatic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Go after some strong desires with your pal and they can be realized with relative ease. Relax tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get together with a partner and accomplish just about anything. Extend your activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can add to your income by taking on a second job. Have a talk with co-workers and understand each other.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get your finest talents to the attention of influential people. They can point you in the right direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Converse with kin and come to a better understanding over finances. Be happy with friends tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get in touch with those who can best assist you in gaining your fondest ambitions. Be careful in travel.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will catch the attention of prominent persons because of the excellent advanced ideas your progeny can grasp. Give a thorough education and add psychology to help this one in comprehending human nature. Your progeny will benefit from a proper diet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourism to Israel drops by 13%

TEL AVIV (R) — Tourism to Israel dropped 13 per cent in 1986 compared with the previous year, Israeli tourism sources said Wednesday. Official figures showed that 1,101,000 tourists visited Israel in 1986, compared with 1,264,000 in 1985. The biggest drop was among tourists from North America, by far the biggest spenders. There were 44 per cent fewer tourists from the United States and 27 per cent fewer from Canada. Tourism from Europe dropped by three per cent but the number of tourists from Argentina doubled.

Lebanese fuel prices rise 60-100%

BEIRUT (R) — Fuel prices in Lebanon were increased by between 60 and 100 per cent Wednesday. Economy, Trade and Oil Minister Victor Kassir announced that each 20 litres of petrol will cost 190 instead of 115 pounds — an increase of about 70 per cent. Fuel oil will cost 162 instead of 105 pounds for each 20 litres — a rise of about 60 per cent. The price of butane gas has been increased by 100 per cent — 100 instead of 50 pounds for a cylinder containing 10 kilograms. No reason was given for the increases but they follow a deep slump of the pound which has lost more than 78 per cent of its value over the past 12 months because of the persisting political instability. Fuel is among items subsidised by the treasury and the government has been complaining about serious shortage of income due to anarchy and militia rule.

U.S. car production declines by 4.4%

DETROIT (R) — The United States produced almost eight million cars in 1986, a 4.4 per cent decline from 1985, auto industry figures show. The decline was entirely due to lower production by the giant General Motors Corporation which laid off thousands of workers in the face of slowing sales and a slipping hold on the U.S. market. Despite the lower production of 7.83 million, dealers and manufacturers are expected to have record sales of about 16 million cars and trucks, eclipsing last year's record 15.72 million sales of domestic and imported models. Ford Motor Company and Chrysler Corporation showed an increased output of cars in the figures. Analysts forecast that car production by the U.S. industry will ease further in 1987 as market demand eases and new cars imported from Korea, Mexico and Brazil become available.

Wage gap in S. Africa exceeds 300%

JOHANNESBURG (R) — White workers earned at least three times as much as blacks in several South African industries in 1986, according to government figures published Wednesday. The figures, confirming the trend of past years, show that whites in the motor industry earned average monthly salaries of 1,556 rand (\$716), compared with 384 rand (\$177) for blacks. White hotel employees earned an average 901 rand (\$414) against 263 rand (\$121) for blacks. The biggest gap was in the wholesale trade sector, where the monthly income for whites averaged 1,933 rand (\$889) and 413 rand (\$190) for blacks.

Newspaper printers begin strike in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Printers of all the daily newspapers began a 48-hour strike Wednesday in support of wage claims, said union secretary-general Meir Goldstein. The walkout means that none of Israel's nine major dailies will appear Thursday or Friday, Goldstein said in a telephone interview. The strike was called by the newspaper press workers and was supported by the national union after publishers and printers failed to reach agreement on wage compensation for new computerized print technologies.

Cuba outlines austerity measures

MIAMI (AP) — The Cuban government has outlined price increases and sweeping cutbacks in food rations, gasoline and television programming, as well as an end to coffee breaks for workers, according to published reports. The Cuban populace was, told in Granma, the Communist Party newspaper, that the economic measures are needed to spur productivity, balance the budget and increase Cuba's reserves of hard currencies, the Miami News reported in Tuesday's edition. The announcement followed several speeches by President Fidel Castro in which he warned the country that economic hardships lie ahead. He also criticized productivity levels. President Castro, now in his 28th year in power, blames Cuba's trade woes on the low market price of sugar and oil, two of the island's main exports.

UAE finance minister urges further cuts in spending

ABU DHABI (R) — Government ministries in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) should cut spending further this year to reduce a budget deficit caused by lower oil revenues, Finance Minister Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum was quoted Wednesday as saying.

Further cooperation was required to prepare the 1987 budget and the need to rationalise spending had become urgent, he told the semi-official Al Itihad newspaper.

He said he had told ministries to cancel all unnecessary expenditure from drafts of their individual 1987 budgets.

Sheikh Hamdan said after a cabinet session on Monday the 1987 budget was expected to be smaller than in 1986, when it was the lowest for seven years.

As in the past four years, no money would be allocated for new projects, he said.

In a federal decree issued Wednesday, President Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahyan said the government would operate on the basis of the 1986 budget until the 1987 budget was finalised.

Monthly spending was approved at one-twelfth of the 1986 total, which was set at 14,023 billion dirhams (\$3.81 billion) last October after a 10-month delay.

The 1986 deficit was estimated at 1.186 billion dirhams (\$320 million).

Sheikh Hamdan said the delay in issuing last year's budget was caused by a decline in revenues in addition to deficits accumulated from previous years.

Economic sources said it had the benefit of cutting expenditure because ministries were confined to specific monthly spending.

WFC chief calls for more world equality in food policy

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The chairman of the World Food Council (WFC) Tuesday called for an agreement among major food producers on a more balanced world food market.

"We are concerned about the disorder on the world food market," Chairman Henri Nallet told a news conference.

He was speaking after a meeting of the WFC's bureau in Brussels and talks with leaders of the European Community. WFC is a United Nations body.

"The situation is worsening," Mr. Nallet added, "since the trade conflict among big producers has eliminated smaller ones. Big northern producers have the technical and financial means to remain on the market by subsidising their exports, others do not have that capacity."

"This is not fair," the former French agriculture minister said. "Developing countries cannot sell anymore while they need foreign currency to reimburse their debt."

The figure has rocketed in rupiah terms because of a 31 per

W. Germany rejects French pressure to appreciate mark

BONN (R) — West Germany Wednesday ruled out a revaluation of the mark despite massive French pressure on Bonn to restore calm to Europe's foreign currency markets.

Economics Minister Martin Bangemann told reporters the West German currency was very strong but had an "appropriate value" within the European Monetary System (EMS) at the present time.

"There is no reason to revalue the mark," he said.

Despite intervention by both the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, and the Bank of France Wednesday, the French franc and the Danish crown remained weak.

Dealers reported continuing strains within the EMS, a system in which eight West European currencies float against each other inside specified limits which were last realigned in April last year.

The aim of the EMS is to prevent wild fluctuations in exchange rates.

At the official currency "fixing" in Frankfurt Wednesday the franc was set at 30.035 marks per 100 francs, just above its intervention floor of 30.030.

The dollar, under pressure because of a huge United States trade deficit and domestic political concern over the future of the Reagan administration, was fixed at 1.9283 marks in Frankfurt and the Bundesbank supported the U.S. currency in what dealers saw as an effort to defuse upward pressure on the mark.

Foreign exchange dealers have linked the franc's plight to France's political difficulties caused by a wave of strikes.

The mark has also benefited from the falling U.S. dollar and at the same time surged against the French currency, which this week

plunged to its lowest permitted level in the EMS.

Gold was fixed in thin trading in London Wednesday at \$399.50 an ounce, \$2.05 down on Tuesday's close.

Tuesday, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac launched an attack on West German authorities, accusing them of egotism for not doing more to stabilise exchange rates.

"There is a crisis of the mark and not of the franc — it is up to the Germans to take action," he said, in a remark currency dealers interpreted as a call for the mark's revaluation.

Under the rules of EMS, set up in 1979 to maintain currency stability in Europe, central banks are obliged to intervene on the markets when member currencies reach predetermined limits.

Mr. Bangemann said the Bundesbank was doing its duty in the context of the EMS and intervening to defend the French franc.

Economists say intervention is a short-term measure to calm currency moves and they believe monetary authorities alone cannot counter strong market trends in the long term.

Bonn's refusal to increase the value of the West German mark follows hard on the heels of Tuesday's announcement from Paris that the French would not devalue the franc.

However, foreign exchange dealers and economists say that some form of realignment within the EMS is now inevitable and predict a battle of wills between Paris and Bonn.

'Foreign debts burden Indonesia'

JAKARTA (R) — Mounting foreign debts are becoming an increasing burden to Indonesia, with debt-servicing now gobbling almost a third of the country's 1987/88 budget, Western and Indonesian bankers and economists said Wednesday.

The growing overseas debt is starting to set alarm bells ringing. "The government cannot continue to borrow heavily from overseas without endangering the foundation of the economy," the Jakarta newspaper warned in an editorial Wednesday.

Indonesia, South East Asia's leading oil exporter and a major world supplier of tin, rubber, coffee and palm oil, is being forced to rely more heavily on foreign aid and loans to make up for the dramatic slump in revenues from oil and commodities.

Announcing the budget for the coming financial year to parliament Tuesday, President Suharto said the amount allocated for foreign debt-servicing had jumped by 61 per cent to 6,760 billion rupiah (\$4.09 billion) — almost a third of the overall budget.

The figure has rocketed in rupiah terms because of a 31 per

cent devaluation of the Indonesian currency last September and the strength of the Japanese yen and some European currencies, President Suharto said.

President Suharto, who has steered Indonesia towards stability and development over the past 20 years, said it was a matter of honour for Jakarta to repay its debts so that it could maintain the confidence of the international financial community.

"Precisely by honouring the obligation of debt-servicing, we gain the confidence of the world," the 65-year-old president declared.

But falling oil revenues mean that debt-servicing is taking up a growing portion of the budget, forcing the government to slash development programmes, including the building of schools and hospitals, and freezing the pay of the civil service and the armed forces for the second successive year.

Oil and gas in recent years have accounted for 70 per cent of export revenues, but in the coming year this will slump to under 50 per cent, Finance Minister Radius



Martin Bangemann

One senior dealer at a West German bank in New York said Tuesday night a five per cent currency adjustment, including a two per cent revaluation of the mark and a three per cent devaluation of the franc was already built into the market.

Ms. Ute Geipel, the chief economist at the U.S. Citibank in Frankfurt suggested Bonn was just delaying the inevitable until a general election in West Germany on Jan. 25.

Ms. Geipel said: "There will be a unilateral revaluation of the mark shortly after the election." The West German authorities would try to support the franc but this would only be possible for a limited period, she said.

Economists say Bonn's centre-right government will be reluctant to revalue the mark before the elections in order not to anger the country's powerful conservative farmers, who would lose out to competitors from countries with weaker currencies.

Mr. Max Zurek, chief economist at the German Farmers' Association, has said a unilateral revaluation of the mark would draw protests from the agricultural community.

Prawiro said. Last year's crash in oil prices, plus continuing low prices for many of Indonesia's traditional commodity exports, has resulted in one of the most austere budgets since the oil-boom of the early 1970s, officials said. Indonesia is the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"The marginal increase of 6.4 per cent in overall expenditure is more than eroded by the giant leap in debt-servicing," said one banker.

Officials say Indonesia's debt-servicing ratio, which measures the cost to the country of servicing foreign debts as a percentage of export earnings, is approaching 40 per cent. Anything above 20 per cent is considered by bankers to be high.

Indonesia's current debt profile is not approaching Latin American proportions and Jakarta signed a \$350 million syndicated loan in Tokyo.

But the worry is that Indonesia is sinking into deeper debt, with little indication that the government can significantly shift the basis of the economy away from its dependence on oil.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

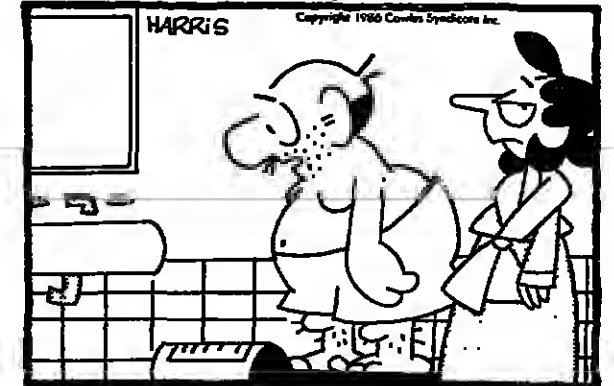


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I shouldn't diet! If I lose 5 pounds, other women will want me and it will wreck our marriage!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OIXED

BOREP

GINENE

MADGEA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HIS "OIXED" BOREP GINENE MADGEA

Yesterday's Jumbles: IVORY TOXIN HECKLE SALUTE

Answer: Why the judge couldn't be disturbed at dinner — HIS HONOR WAS AT "STEAK"



WHAT THE MAESTRO CALLED HIS ASSISTANT.

Misuari wants outsiders to monitor Filipino plebiscite

MANILA (R) — Muslim guerrilla leader Nur Misuari said Wednesday he would not allow the government to supervise a plebiscite on autonomy for the southern Philippines and hinted he wanted the vote monitored by outsiders.

The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman told Reuters by telephone from Saudi Arabia that he would renew his fight for secession in the south if peace talks with Manila broke down because of obstacles placed in the way of peace by MNLF opponents inside and outside the government.

"Will the United Nations willingly come to supervise the plebiscite? Are they (the Philippine government) going to allow a third party to supervise?" said Misuari, speaking from Jeddah.

"Certainly they (the government) won't allow the MNLF to conduct the plebiscite. Neither are we ready to allow the Philippine government to conduct it, knowing the sad experiences of the past," the 45-year-old rebel leader added.

Misuari was referring to charges of corrupt electoral practices under deposed President Ferdinand Marcos.

In talks last week in Saudi Arabia, the MNLF agreed with government representatives to discuss "full autonomy" for Mindanao, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Palawan and the Sulu Islands in return for the MNLF dropping its demand for independence.

The government and Misuari both say only those directly affected by autonomy would be qualified to vote in a plebiscite, which would be held sometime after the Feb. 2 national referendum on a new Philippine constitution.

Meanwhile former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, sacked by Philippine President Corason Aquino after his followers were linked to rumours of a coup plot, said Filipinos had peacefully ousted Ferdinand Marcos and there was no reason "we can't do it again."

Mr. Enrile, who led last February's civilian-backed military revolt that ended President Marcos' rule, made the remark in a speech to a civic club Tuesday night.

"If we have succeeded to replace the old regime with a new one in a peaceful manner during the revolution in February, there is no reason why we can't do it again," Mr. Enrile said.

Asked if he meant there should be another revolution, this time against Mrs. Aquino, Mr. Enrile snapped at a reporter: "I didn't say that. Where did you get that silly idea?"

Mr. Enrile said he doubted,

whether Mrs. Aquino would succeed in her peace talks with Communist rebels and predicted she would soon draw "her sword of war." He said this could happen even before a current 60-day ceasefire ends on Feb. 7.

Mr. Enrile, fired in November, has been travelling around the country urging people to reject a proposed constitution that would give Mrs. Aquino a six-year term.

Mr. Enrile said he learned from his trip to southern Mindanao last week that "a very large segment of the military organisation" in the area, including field commanders, was campaigning against the new charter.

A Philippines newspaper reported Wednesday that Communist rebels said the Soviet Union offered to give them money and weapons, but they rejected the aid because of conditions attached by the Soviets.

The Manila Bulletin said rebel officials on the Bataan peninsula disclosed the offer during a news conference Tuesday. The newspaper said the rebels refused to explain why they rejected the offer.

The newspaper's report identified the rebels as Javier Domingo of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and Ricardo Silvestre of the New People's Army (NPA).

"Had we accepted it, perhaps we could have attained our goal sooner than what our timetable had set for it," Domingo was quoted as saying.

Pentagon: Stealth missile deployment plans under way

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger has said the Pentagon was moving to deploy a radar-evading "Stealth" version of the U.S. cruise missile and that deployment of the Stealth bomber was on schedule for the early 1990s.

Mr. Weinberger said, K.I. Sawyer U.S. Air Force Base near Marquette, Michigan, had been selected as the site for the first deployment of the Stealth missile, which is known formally as the Advanced Cruise Missile.

Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims said later that the new missile would begin arriving at the base by 1989, but that preparations for deployment of the new weapon would start within the year.

Mr. Weinberger, in an interview with several reporters, was asked about the bomber and missile programmes in the wake of Monday's submission to Congress of the Defence Department's fiscal 1988 budget proposal.

That budget disclosed the Pentagon would request \$89.3 million in fiscal 1988 to build support facilities at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, for the first wing of Stealth bombers. That was the first indication provided by the Pentagon of a basing decision for the plane.

The advanced technology, or Stealth, bomber is an aircraft designed to avoid radar detection. Stealth is actually a term applied to a variety of technologies and designs that are combined to provide the radar-evading capability. They include such things as the use of a rounded shape, radar-absorbing materials on the wings and fuselage and engines "blended" into the fuselage.

Both the Stealth bomber and Stealth missile programmes are highly classified and the Pentagon in the past has done little more than acknowledge their existence. Published reports have indicated, however, the bomber resembles a flying wing and that limited production of the first model Stealth missile began in fiscal 1986.

U.S. proposes arms sales to six countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government on Tuesday proposed arms sales to six countries — Egypt, Spain, Greece, Turkey, England and China.

The Defence Department, in a formal statement of notification to Congress, said it was prepared to sell China radar and radio sets of a type used to locate hostile artillery units.

The transaction is valued at \$62 million and will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country," said the statement released at the Pentagon.

The sale, which will go forward unless Congress moves to block it within 30 days, would be only the third government-to-government arms deal negotiated by the two countries.

The first, involving \$98 million worth of technology and equipment to modernise Chinese artillery ammunition plants, was approved in the fall of 1985. The second, a \$550-million transaction involving new avionics equipment for jet fighters, was finalised last October.

The other sales announced on Tuesday also must clear Congress. Egypt has been offered 90-M113 armoured personnel

carriers for \$27 million and more than 50,000 155mm Howitzer projectiles for \$41 million. The sales "will not affect the basic military balance in the region," the Pentagon said.

Spain, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, has been offered 80 Harrier missiles, and associated spare parts and training support for \$42 million, the Pentagon said. The Harrier missile is a type carried by air force and navy jets for use against enemy radar installations.

Spain is also being offered 20 Harpoon air-to-surface missiles and associated spare parts and training for \$26 million the Pentagon said.

Greece another NATO ally, is being offered four Phalanx gun systems for \$56 million. The Phalanx is an advanced, computer-controlled Gatling gun used by the navy to protect ships against low-flying cruise missiles.

Turkey, also a member of NATO, is being offered spare parts worth \$86 million for American-made airplanes — the C-130, F-4, F-5, F-100, F-104 and trainer planes — already in its inventory, the Pentagon said.

Britain, meanwhile, is being offered equipment to upgrade its Ocean Surveillance Information Centre in a deal valued at \$24 million, the Pentagon added.

Dissidents form new party to challenge Gandhi

NEW DELHI (AP) — Former associates of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi formed a new political party Tuesday to challenge the ruling Congress Party run by Mrs. Gandhi's son.

"We are the real Congress. What Rajiv Gandhi is leading is fake. He has cashed in and lived on Mrs. Gandhi's glory too long," said S.S. Mohapatra, a leader of the new National Socialist Congress.

The party was created at a convention in New Delhi that organisers said was attended by 4,000 delegates across from India. Its charter calls for a policy of socialism and equality.

Pranab Mukherjee, an outspoken critic of Rajiv Gandhi, was elected head of the new party. Mohapatra, general secretary of the Congress Party under Mrs. Gandhi, is on the Steering Committee.

The Congress, which holds a

solid majority in the Indian parliament, has ruled India for most of the years since the country's independence in 1947.

India has no strong national opposition party, although opposition groups rule in eight of India's 23 states.

Rajiv Gandhi took over as prime minister and leader of the Congress Party after the Oct. 31, 1984, slaying of his mother by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

After leading the Congress to a landslide victory in federal elections two months later, Mr. Gandhi began ousting some of his late mother's close associates.

Mukherjee, finance minister under Mrs. Gandhi, was expelled from the Congress last April for rebelling against Rajiv Gandhi.

Speakers at the convention said Mr. Gandhi was trying to run the Congress without advice from experienced political leaders.

COLUMNS 768

Statue of Lenin buried

MOSCOW (R) — An angry Soviet collective farm chairman ordered a statue of Lenin to be buried in a ditch because he said it had been imposed on him by local authorities, the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda has reported. It quoted unrepentant Chairman Alexander Rodionov from the "Lenin memorial" farm at Meshchorka, in the Yelens region of central Russia, as telling its correspondent: "We didn't order it or pay for it. It was sent by them in Yelens." But the bulldozer driver and Communist Party member who buried the statue said the chairman had used threats to force him to do it.

Robbers steal \$1.36m from van

NOTTINGHAM, England (AP) — Robbers made off with \$925,000 (\$1.36 million) after smashing their way into a security van in the northern English city of Nottingham, a security company said. Charles Rice, spokesman for Group Four Total Security Ltd., said one of the van's three-man crew suffered minor injuries when the vehicle's rear doors rammed open by a truck. The three men were making a cash delivery to a branch of the National Westminster Bank, he said. Two of the crew were already in the bank when the attack occurred. Police said four masked robbers, including one with a handgun, escaped in another van.

Farm horse saves crippled labourer

PAARL, South Africa (AP) — A crippled farmworker gored by a bull was in critical condition at a hospital, but his employer says the man's life may have been saved by a saddle horse who kicked the attacking animal and drove it away. Chris de Villiers, owner of Bewaterfontein Farm near Paarl, 50 kilometres north east of Cape Town, in the inland wine-and-fruit-growing region of Cape Province, was quoted by the South African Press Association about the weekend incident. It did not specify whether the incident occurred Saturday or Sunday. He said he had taken the rest of his staff to the beach for the day. Goffie Faro, an employee, did not normally work with the stock, had gone to the field to bring the cows in for milking, when the bull attacked. "All I can figure out is that the bull did not recognise Mr. Faro," said Mr. de Villiers. The story did not specify Faro's race. Because he is crippled in both feet, Faro could not escape and was knocked down and gored. The saddle horse, Ruby, then intervened, kicking the bull until it backed off.

AIDS claimed 2,139 lives in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — AIDS claimed 2,139 lives in New York City in 1986, an increase of more than 800 deaths over last year, according to the New York Times. The latest city Health Department records show that at least 2,790 new AIDS cases were diagnosed in 1986, compared with 2,362 in 1985, bringing the city's cumulative total to 8,681 cases and 4,914 deaths since the disease was first detected in 1981, the Times reported. New York City's total cases represent 31.7 per cent of the nation's total of 29,003, according to the Federal Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta. San Francisco has the second greatest number of cases in the nation with 2,912, and Los Angeles is the third with 2,387. Dr. Rand Stonebumer, head of the New York City Health Department's AIDS unit, said the figures were not rising as fast as they used to. "But the fact that it's not a geometric increase shouldn't lull anyone," he said. "It's distressing that it continues to increase. We've seen no reversal in the numbers," he told the Times. Health officials are particularly concerned about the prolonged latency of AIDS. Researchers warn that those who carry the AIDS virus may harbour and transmit the virus for years without having symptoms.

CIA director has difficulty speaking

WASHINGTON (R) — CIA Director William Casey, who underwent surgery for a cancerous brain tumour last month, has difficulty speaking and suffers from weakness on the right side of his body, a hospital spokesman said.

But both problems were improving since Mr. Casey underwent surgery on Dec. 18 for removal of the tumour from the left side of his brain, said

Georgetown University Hospital spokesman Tim Sites.

"He has begun radiation therapy which will continue for a number of weeks for treatment of the lymphoma," Sites said Tuesday.

He said Casey, 73, who was rushed to the hospital Dec. 15 after he suffered a seizure at Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters, "remains in stable condition and continues to

convalesce."

Sites said he could not elaborate, adding that the hospital would issue no further information unless Mr. Casey's condition changed.

Earlier Tuesday, the White House refused to comment on a report that Mr. Casey was unable to speak and insisted there were no plans to find a new chief for the spy agency.

"There's just not anything being done on that," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said when asked if the administration was seeking a replacement.

He added that White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan "told me this morning there is no search under way."

Asked if Mr. Casey was expected to resume his duties, Mr. Speakes said, "that remains to be seen."

Greek soldier reportedly wounded by smugglers

ATHENS (R) — A Greek border guard was wounded in an exchange of fire with smugglers who tried to cross into Greece from Turkey in the Evros region of north-eastern Greece, Greek state-run radio said Wednesday.

There was no information on the incident, which occurred Tuesday night in the same area where two Turkish soldiers and one Greek were killed in shooting incidents last month.

In Ankara, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said it knew nothing of the incident.

The independent Hurriyet News Agency reported Tuesday night, however, that Turkish security forces had detained a

group of five people, including an armed force deserter, seeking to flee across the border.

It made no reference to any shooting and did not say how near the border the five were seized.

Gendarmic private Mahmut Taskiran, once jailed as a member of the banned Turkish left-wing group Dev-Yol (Revolutionary Way), had gone on a robbery spree with friends after fleeing his unit with arms and ammunition last month, the agency said.

He had a combat rifle and 98 rounds of ammunition when held at the village of Begondik in the border province of Kesan, it added.

Human rights campaigners foil Czechoslovak police

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak Communist authorities mounted a major but only partly successful police operation in a bid to prevent a news conference by the human rights movement Charter 77 marking its 10th anniversary.

Several Charter spokesmen evaded the police Tuesday night and addressed foreign correspondents in a private apartment.

Police detained at least five prominent Charter figures, for some hours and stopped others leaving their homes during the evening to attend the news conference at which three new

spokesmen were named for 1987.

A six-page statement was also issued, expressing hope for greater democracy after years of political stalemate, following the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion which ended the "Prague spring" reform period.

During the news conference the electricity supply to the apartment was suddenly turned off. Discussions continued by the light of candles that had been used to illuminate a Christmas tree in the flat.

Plain-clothes police checked the identity papers of journalists as they left.

Varig crash survivor says passengers burned to death

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Many passengers on the Varig Boeing 707 that crashed here shortly after takeoff survived the impact but were burned alive in the fire that followed, said the accident's sole survivor.

In an interview with Ivory Coast television, Ivorian Physical Education Instructor Neuba Yessoh said he escaped the flames from Saturday's crash by crawling from the wreckage of the plane's fuselage.

Yessoh, who was sitting in the rear of the plane, said Tuesday he helped another man, British National Ahmad Wansa, get out through an emergency exit. Wansa died Tuesday morning on route to a Paris hospital after suffering burns over more than half of his body. All other 49 passengers and crew died in the crash.

The Rio de Janeiro-bound jetliner went down in a heavily wooded area 20 kilometres from Abidjan shortly after takeoff early Saturday morning.

Yessoh, speaking slowly through cracked and blistered lips, said he had suffered heavy burns on his arms and feet and lung damage from smoke inhalation.

He had tried to save other passengers but "the flames got so high there was no possibility to return to get those who were crying out," he said.

He confirmed earlier reports that an engine had caught fire shortly before the crash. Varig officials had said earlier the pilot had radioed the Abidjan Control

Tower to say he was having problems and was returning to the airport when the plane went down.

The university instructor said the first evidence of anything wrong was when he "felt several jolts," after which the crew instructed passengers to fasten their seat belts. The crew then announced the plane had problems and would be returning to Abidjan.

Shortly after that, he said, the engine caught fire and the airliner crashed. Yessoh said when the engine caught fire he heard "cries and screams for help. It was every man for himself."

Varig officials have declined to comment on the investigation into the cause of the crash, which is being conducted jointly by Brazilian, American and Ivorian officials.

The investigators met late into the night Tuesday and were unavailable for comment. The airline's chief of operations Antonio Jose Schittini Pinto said earlier Tuesday that the airliner's flight recorder had been found but the search was continuing for the plane's voice recorder.

The flight recorder monitors the plane's altitude, speed, fuel pressure, vibration and other technical details of the flight. The voice recorder keeps a record of the last thirty minutes of cockpit conversation. Both recorders, known as "black boxes" are seen as the key to establishing the sequence of events in the plane's final minutes of flight.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Kestenbaum

OVERY AND COVERT FLIES

By Manny Miller

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